

SPECIAL POST-ELECTION EDITION

FOUR MORE YEARS OF HELL

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NOVEMBER 2004



SACRAMENTO'S GLBT COMMUNITY VOICE

17th Annual

World AIDS Day

"Women, Children, and AIDS"



Wednesday, December 1,
2004

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Pioneer United
Church

* FREE ADMITTANCE *

Candlelight March

6:00-6:30 p.m.

Starting from CARES (1500 21st Street, Sacramento)
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6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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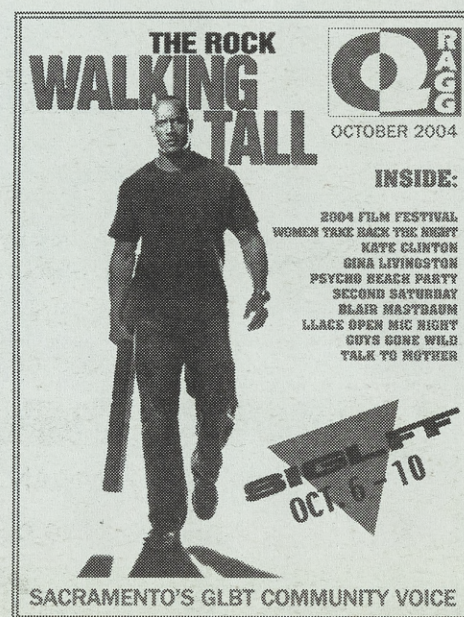


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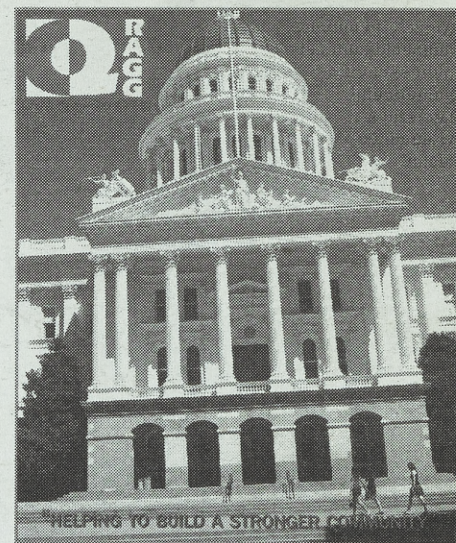
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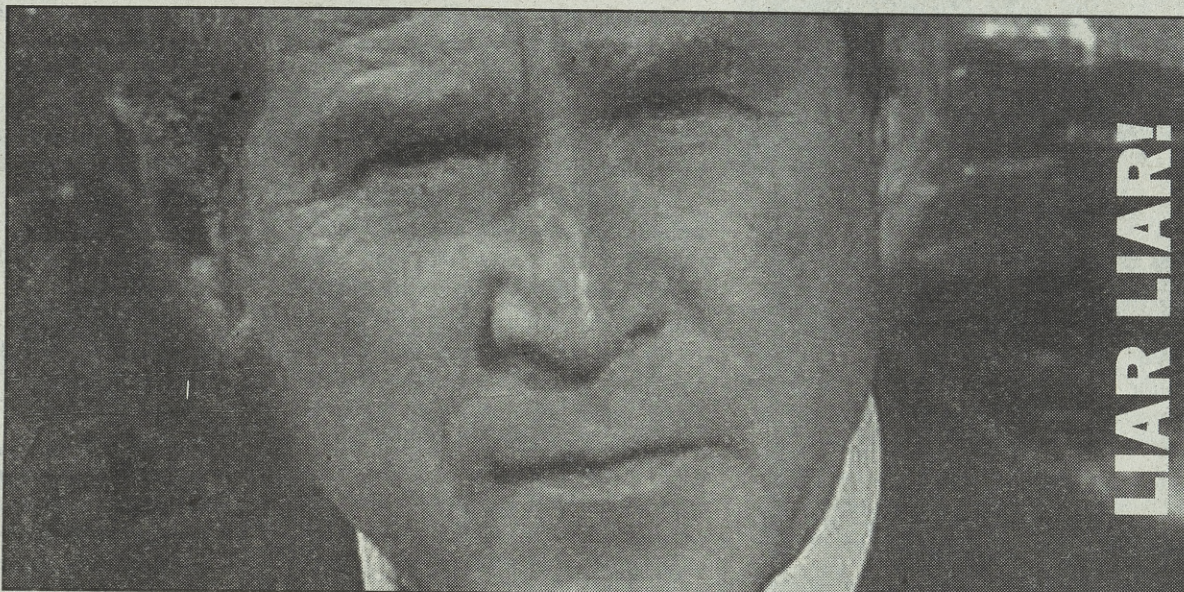
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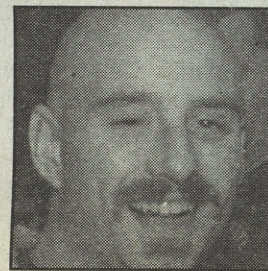
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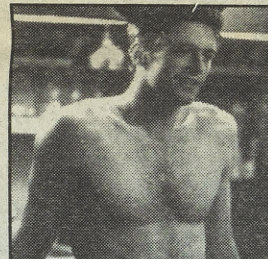
God told him to hate us!



**KATE CLINTON COMES
 TO THE CREST THEATER
 OFFERING POLITICAL
 HEALING FOR MANY
 VOTER WEARY FOLKS**
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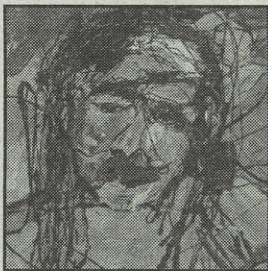
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 LEATHERMEN CELE-
 BRATE THEIR 7TH
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 TAKE ON VAN HELSING,
 THE GRUDGE AND THE
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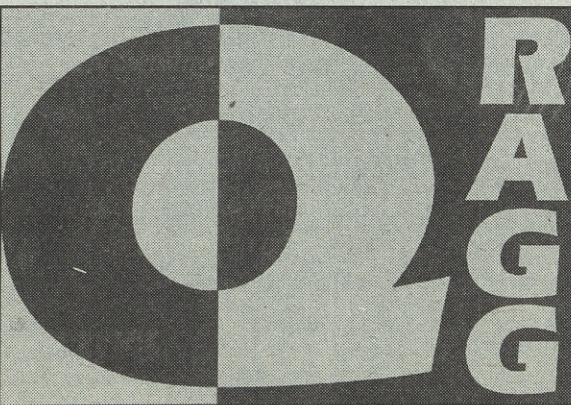
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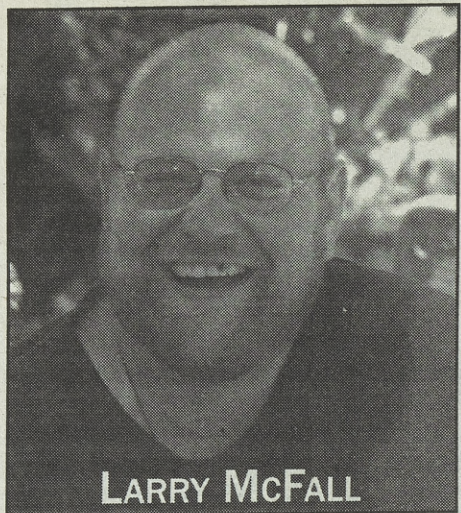
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**THEATER LISTINGS NOW
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 OUT THE NEW SHOWS**
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LARRY McFALL
PUBLISHER

Four more years of Hell ...

ing, what with the owner of the Diebold Company promising to deliver the state of Ohio to the Bush campaign a year ago. How can someone who makes the machines that we vote on, go on record saying he would guarantee a Bush win, then still be allowed to supply those machines without a way for us to track each and every vote? The lawyers for the democratic party should have been lining up at the door wanting to make sure that we could recount every vote cast in this election, especially after the 2000 election debacle.

Now, Kerry says we need to get behind this president and unite this country. I say "to hell with that!" We need to continue to voice our displeasure with an administration that continues to try and shove us back into the closet. We need to continue building the democratic ranks and make sure the in the next national election in 2006, when we elect a new House of Representatives, and one-third of the Senate, that our voices will be heard. Even with forty-eight percent of this country voting against Bush, he and his evil sidekick Dick Cheney, have stated that this country has given them a mandate to continue fighting for a Constitutional Amendment to ban gay marriage, and we need to make sure that doesn't happen. He wants to privatize social security and allow people putting money into the system to be able to invest some of that money for their future. Even according to many Republicans this idea would make the deficit go up another 2 trillion dollars. Just so you can see it in a better light that would be \$2,000,000,000,000.00. For those women out there that would

like to continue to have the right of choice when it comes to having or not having that baby, this president will be appointing judges to the Supreme Court that will overturn Roe vs. Wade, and make that choice for you. Personally, I am not in favor of abortion, but I do believe it should be left up to the individual. I am not in a place to make that call for someone else, and we should not be pushing our beliefs on others. Our fore fathers put the separation between church and state in the constitution for a very good reason—we all have very different beliefs. The differences of opinion vary not only in the different religions, but within the very body of each individual religion.

Bush is going to be our president for four more years, whether we like it or not, but that doesn't mean that I have to accept the lies and deceptions that he continues to spew. I can support our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and all across the world, without supporting this administration's ideals. I will continue to pay my taxes even though this president will use portions of that money to fight against some of my basic rights such as, the right to privacy and the right to marry the person I fall in love with (even if they are of the same gender). I will continue to believe everyday that I live in the greatest country in world, even though I know more people across the globe hate my country and me because of the pompous ass that leads us. We have to believe that things will get better and keep a positive outlook.

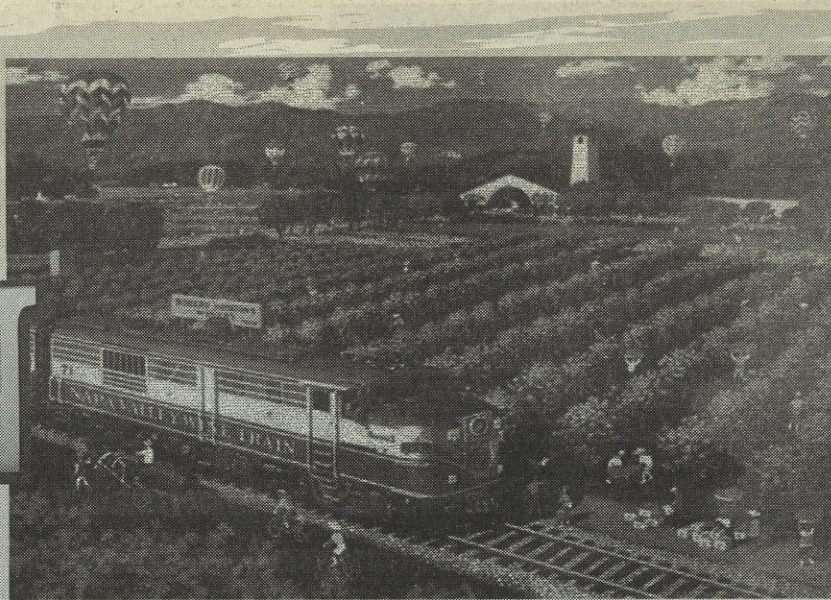
Now, keeping with that positive outlook theme, I have some really great news for our local community. The

Sacramento City Council adopted a new ordinance that requires all contractors of the city have equal benefits for its employees if they want to continue to do business with this city. I, along with Sam Catalano and Dan Roth from the Stonewall Democrats, Marghe Covino, Q-munity leader and Kathleen Montgomery of PFLAG, attended the city council meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at which the council voted unanimously to accept the new ordinance. This ordinance was championed by council-members Cohen and Jones, but got a special boost to all of us when council-member Jimmy Yee voted in favor of the ordinance. You have to go back 13 years to understand why this was so important. Mr. Yee stated during the council meeting that 13 years ago when he first came onto the council, he was firmly against equal benefits for gays and lesbians. Many within the community continued to lobby Mr. Yee in favor of the GLBT community, but he stood steadfast in his decision. Over the years Mr. Yee has come to know many of our community's leaders and has changed his views, even to the point of attending the Four Freedoms dinner hosted by the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento this past year.

We here at Q Ragg would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Fargo and all the Sacramento City Council Members for showing their support of the GLBT community. A very special thank you goes out to council members Cohen and Jones for making this possible and also to Jimmy Yee for seeing the light.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!

WINE TRAIN



**FINE WINES. GOOD COMPANY. AND A MURDER?
ALL ABOARD! DECEMBER 17**

Imagine spending a beautiful evening whisking across the Napa Valley. You'll enjoy a full gourmet dinner on the Murder Mystery Wine Train, some of the Valley's finest vintages, and comfortable lodging at the Chateau Hotel that night.

We'll depart Sacramento at 11am Friday, December 17th.

Destination: Wine Country!

Won't you join us for great food, great fun, and great company.

Coaches hosted by Marghe Covino, Gayiel Von, Johnathan Cameron, Mike Johnston. Complimentary cocktails served on the bus. Hospitality suite at The Chateau Hotel from 4-6pm. Train departs 7:30pm. We'll be returning to the Hotel after for a follow-up hospitality suite.

RSVP SOON! THERE IS LIMITED SPACE AND IT WILL SELL OUT!

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Dear Editor...

CAP/PAC COUPLE

We would like to thank you for the picture that you printed of us at the CAP/PAC Dinner (lower right corner page 8). Those are few and far between it seems. I would also like to request a copy of the picture, if I may. It's a good picture-not too many of those left.

The reason for this letter is to get out to those who didn't attend the CAP/PAC dinner a little story that I had printed as an advertisement in the CAP/PAC program. My ad is on page 6, bottom half of page. The ad is a true story, and brings me to tears still today. The story is about The Honorable Mayor Gavin Newsom. He is quite an extraordinary man. I wanted to share what I know of that special man.

On February 12 of this year an honorable man did an honorable act, his name is Gavin Newsom. At that precise moment he became a hero; not only to me, but to tens of thousands just like me.

At SF Pride, my husband and I marched with the MECA/Gavin Newsom contingent. At the end, with no press and maybe 10 people around Mayor Newsom at the most, I had the privilege to witness his true self. A woman trying to get an autograph said, "Thank you Mr. Newsom for doing the right thing". Mayor Newsom's reply, "Ah ma'am, you should never have to thank someone for doing that". The reply that I heard come from that humble man brought me to tears and I had to walk away. I will always remember that day. Thank you Mr. Newsom.

There's a quote by Martin Luther King Jr. that speaks volumes even now after 37 years: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends". Martin Luther King Jr. 1967.

I thank you Mr. Mcfall for this chance to share a little story about a hero of mine. Some other time maybe we can talk about my new position as Co-Chair of the Sacramento Chapter of Marriage Equality California (MECA). And that damn Steve Hansen is in San Diego for 3 months. What to do for 3 months? must be rough.

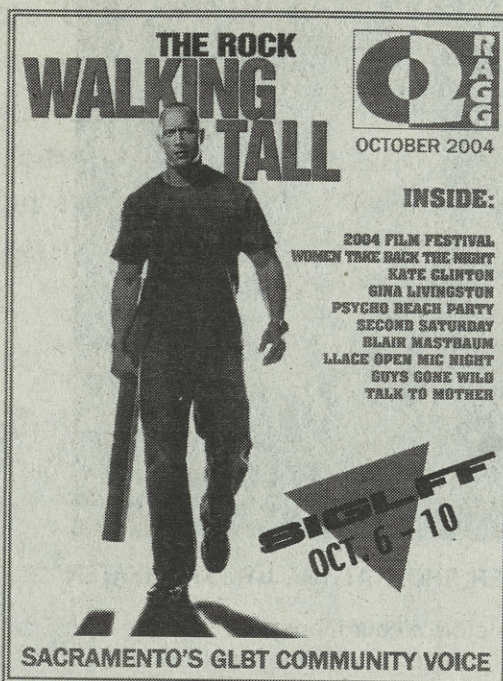
Respectfully,
Matthew C. Lloyd & Travis Arnold
Q-Munity Members

A NEW DAY, A NEW WAY

The Lambda Community Center is the centerpiece program of the Lambda Community Fund. It opened in 1986 to serve the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community in the greater Sacramento Valley area. Our records indicate the Center serves an estimated 10,000 LGBTI people annually.

In the summer of 2003, the Board of Directors appointed a new Executive Director whose mandate was to pilot the Center through a period of creative expansion. Since then, the Board has evolved, with new appointments, into a dynamic and diverse team committed to the Center's new vision.

Our Mission: "We strive to build a healthy, strong and diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex community in the greater Sacramento area by providing services, resources, support, education and advocacy."



The Center's motto, "Diversity Matters" says it all. Everyone has a place at the Center. It is reflected in the advocacy, community outreach, education, youth programs, social events and referral services, and all services currently in the planning stage and under development: a multi-agency foster care program for our LGBTI youth, and a crisis helpline and counseling program in collaboration with California State University, Sacramento.

The 2000 Federal Census reports a Greater Sacramento Valley area population of 1,750,000 residents. This figure equates to a potential of 175,000 LGBTI clients. These are exciting times for Center. Visit us here or on the web. Help build a healthier, more vibrant community for us all. Participate! Volunteer! Donate!

Lambda Community Center
1927 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.lambdasac.org
Tax ID# 94-2502229

NORCAL AIDS CHALLENGE

After many months of planning, we're pleased to announce that registration is now open for the NorCal AIDS Challenge, a new and mostly volunteer-produced cycling event that will raise funds for nonprofit agencies fighting HIV and AIDS in the greater Sacramento region. These agencies include the Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services (CARES), Breaking Barriers Community Services Center, and the Open Arms Project of the AIDS Housing Alliance.

Our inaugural event is 4 days and 360 miles in length, starts and ends in Sacramento, and is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th to Saturday, May 21st, 2005. Although physical training is strongly encouraged for this event, all ages and fitness levels are welcome to register and prepare for this challenging, inspiring, and fully-supported journey. Cyclists and Crew are required to raise a minimum of \$1,800 and \$500 through donor pledges, respectively.

Please visit the event website at <http://www.norcalaidschallenge.com> to register, donate, or obtain additional information. Some content [including a printable donation form] is still under construction, but should be available in the near future. Also, if you signed up at one of our events a template letter announcing the event will be sent to you in a subsequent email message that can

be forwarded to your friends and family.

Please forward this on to your friends and family. Hope to see you at the NorCal AIDS Challenge!

Sincerely,
Paul Curtis
Co-Chair NorCal AIDS Challenge

A LETTER TO "UNCLE LARRY"

Dear "Uncle" Larry. I'm a friend of your beautiful niece Tiffany's. I just wanted to tell you that Tiff had given me copies of your first three issues of Q-Ragg yesterday at lunch and by the time I gotten ready to go to bed I found that I had already devoured each and every one of them! All I can say is "Wow! I'm quite impressed!"

I found them all very entertaining as well as informative even though I don't live in Sacramento, let alone the state of California. Nonetheless, GLBT-issues are generally the same regardless of where you live, at least here in the states. So I could appreciate what your paper had to say and offer to the GLBT-community at large. As well as to provide some insight into the GLBT-community out there in Sacramento.

I especially enjoyed the cleverly-written political columns by Daniel Roth. I found myself snickering out loud quite often while reading his take on the often contradictory and perplexing world of politics here in the US.

As for that ungrateful individual who wrote that nasty letter to you alleging that your staff was substandard and some of your writers had purportedly plagiarized. People don't put down others and/or their work when they feel good about themselves.

So Mr. Publisher, keep up the great work! I can see why your niece is so proud of all of your accomplishments, including putting together a quality GLBT paper!

Much Continued Success,
Adam Lovallo
Tucson, Arizona

VALLEY LEATHER KUDOS

As president of the lambda Players, I would like to bring attention to one of our sponsors, and most importantly, a group of wonderful, hard-working and civic-minded gentlemen that we at Lambda Players are proud to call our friends.

The Sacramento Valley Leathermen, who recently celebrated their anniversary at the Bolt, have given so much to this community in the past years with their pancake breakfasts at FACES, their volunteering as flag carriers at so many community events, and their more than generous financial contributions to nonprofit groups throughout sacramento.

I really hope our community will take a moment and reflect on what a significant and invaluable part of sacramento these men are.

Thank you for being there, SVL!

Tom Swanner,
Lambda Players President

Letters to the Editor: Please include your first and last name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters or emails submitted without this information will not be printed. Thank you.

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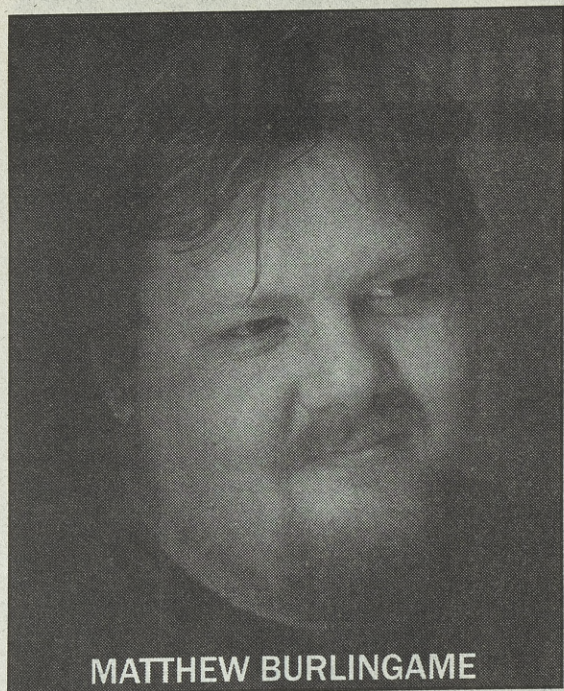
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Postpartum Politics ...



MATTHEW BURLINGAME

Q-RAGG EDITOR



MATT AND KATE AFTER HER SHOW AT THE CREST THEATER

SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED? JUST A WEEK AGO, WEREN'T WE ALL EAGER TO GET TO THE POLLS AND CHANGE THE COURSE OF AMERICA?

It's been months of being addicted to Air America radio, a year of signing online petitions, forwarding thousands of emails and joining every liberal and democratic based organization, webzine, and GLBT political organization, and learning more about our government and how it works than I have ever known.

And in the course of one day, my thoughts turned from hopeful to that of a quiet rage. The kind of rage that is so quiet, you don't even realize it's there yourself. But it was. I began realizing it as people would ask me how I felt about the election.

"Well, I saw a young college guy voting for Bush," I'd say. "Hope he has fun in Iraq, dumb bastard."

Then came, "I always thought the middle of the country was unnecessary, this just proves it."

I realized more and more that I was not taking these election results well, and my hope died when Tom Swanner called me from work and in a low voice simply said, "He conceded."

Everywhere I turned during that week, I ran into people I worked with, people I only saw behind order counters, people I had never met before, and many of them looked as if they were in shell shock. Whenever the election was mentioned they looked as though they were ready to cry. Many didn't even have words to express what they were feeling. They weren't alone.

It was then the talk of voter fraud, rigged black boxes, election results being a little too predictable, but not matching up to exit polls, and 1001 other conspiracy theories took off. And I want to believe them all. That's coming from someone who doesn't watch movies or TV shows about aliens because he can't stand all the conspiracy hype that the media shoves down our throats. But this is different. I want to believe our election was rigged because I want to believe our country wouldn't be so fucking stupid as to want this nightmare for another four years. And this nightmare is one many of our youth are not going to be able to wake up from. But even if it is, even if it is proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that everything

that happened November 2 was rigged ... it won't change anything. With the republics controlling congress and the House, there's not a thing they would do. And let's face it, America is far too polite, or timid, whichever, a nation to do anything more than just wait the four years in misery and try again later.

As part of my coming to terms with the situation, and trying to overcome the rage still lurking beneath the surface, I sat down and began to process. It's times like these when I admire our lesbian sisters as they seem much more adept at the whole processing thing. For gay men, our processing comes in several different stages, the first of which is ...

THE DRAMA QUEEN PHASE:

This is the phase where gay men get most of our stereotypical reputations for being emotionally high-strung queens. Let's face it, even the butch-est gay guy turns into a slappy-fighting, high-pitched squealing teenage girl in this phase. Usually over walking in on the lover getting a booty call from your best friend, but the tears flow freely and the fag hag has her cell phone on at all times "just in case." This phase lasted about 2 minutes for me as I quickly made my way into...

THE PHARAOH PHASE:

Remember back in the days of Moses when the Pharaoh kept hardening his heart and bringing all those plagues on everyone? That's kind of what this phase is. It's the time when we think we are acting like self-sufficient adults, but are really just big pouting babies. We keep our answers short and distant, we show no emotion and resign ourselves to never feeling anything ever again, for the child within is now locked in the emotional closet. This phase many times overlaps with ...

THE BITTER BITCH PHASE:

I spent much of my time in this phase. It's not a good thing when the Pharaoh and the bitter bitch get together, because we say a lot of things we can later end up regretting. Such as ...

"I hope every family that voted for Bush has their child drafted. Let them think about their vote when their kids are getting their body parts blown off."

Or, "I hope all these old people remember the reasons they voted this way when their social security and medicare disappears because Cheney

stole all our money."

And, "I hope they learn what the Iraqis are going through when our allies begin sanctions on us because we keep invading country after country for no reason."

When this phase is over, you regret these thoughts. But not quite ready to forgive and forget, up pops ...

THE TORCH SONG-HECHE PHASE:

This is the time when all those torch song CDs you bought when you were young and just coming out, suddenly seem to resurface. For some of us, it's Vicki Carr and Barbra. For me, it's Sinead O'Conner, Corey Hart, Robbie Williams and Madonna's *Something To Remember* CD. It's a time of reflection, isolation, self-imposed depression and rambling on the phone to your hag reciting Mark Strand poetry. "...please, save the babies..." Which is more desirable than wandering down the street claiming to be God, but never the less, it's a Heche sort of mind. Most of the time this phase can be cut short with some really good shopping. And once we are at the mall, we then find ourselves right in the middle of ...

THE I'M OVER IT, BUT NOT REALLY PHASE:

Now if this is after a breakup, this is the phase where you make sure everyone who even says hello to you gets your side of the story and understands that in no way are you holding any grudges. What's done is done and you just have to live your life for you. Of course everyone can see right through this and knows you still fall asleep clutching one of the shirts he left behind by accident—or in this case, the Kerry-Edwards sign still propped up in your window. Really, you think that if you keep saying it, you will come to peace with it: George Bush was reelected ... George Bush was reelected ... and about this time we find ourselves back in the drama queen phase. After a few cycles, we finally are able to process it through and enter ...

THE ACCEPTANCE PHASE:

This is the phase where you are once again able to think clearly. You clean your kitchen, you settle back into Survivor, you rejoin life and when you see Bush's Monkey-like face everywhere, you just repeat the AA slogans your friend used to share with you as

he was in recovery. Then, when we realize that even though we have to accept that our country has basically just been hijacked for the second time, that the hope we thought was dead, really isn't. It's just wounded right now. And that's when we are ready to enter the phase that we as GLBT minorities know all too well ...

THE FIGHT BACK STAGE:

This is the stage so many of us exist in on a day to day basis, that we often forget what it's like to turn off the advocacy switch for five minutes. It's the one that reminds us how far we've come, and how far we have yet to go. And it's an uphill battle. Funny that Religious Right bigots fear us for having the power to destroy marriage, topple civilizations and make them question their own sexuality, but we still can't make decent independent movies. But I digress.

Waiting for her show to begin, I was talking with Political Comedienne Kate Clinton backstage just a few days after the election and she asked me how I felt about the election. This time I wasn't bitter. I told her I was confused, a little hurt, but I was ready to face the next four years fighting harder than ever for our rights and a better direction for our country.

I then told her that for the first time in her life, my mother registered and voted. She never did it before because she felt that it didn't have anything to do with her. That government was a faceless, unreachable entity that has no connection with the people or her life. Unfortunately, many people in our country feel the same way. But the current administration and their antics moved her enough that when I asked her to register, she did. And I told her I was proud to accompany my mom her first time to the polls.

Heading into the hall she put her hand on my shoulder and told me to never stop fighting, and to give my mom a hug from her.

This election meant so much to so many of us. For me, it was like finally having my favorite team at the Superbowl ... or even caring about the Superbowl. I felt empowered and like I finally understood without question what it meant to be an American Citizen.

I have always questioned my place in a country that supports institutionalized discrimination of me for the way I was born; the sex of the person I am by birth predetermined to fall in love with. But after these last few months, I now know my place is here, standing side by side with my community, continuing to fight what looks to be a long and costly battle to obtain our complete and undeniable freedoms.

So, all I can say now is ... BRING IT!

EDITOR@Q-RAGG.COM

Pioneering Nationwide Caravan for Marriage Equality

By Ricky Diaz Anaya/Q-Ragg

IF WE'VE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM SUCCESSFUL FORMER CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES IN OUR COUNTRY, IT IS THAT WE MUST STAND UP, REACH OUT AND HIT THE ROAD TO TALK TO OUR FELLOW AMERICANS ABOUT WHY THIS FORM [SAME SEX MARRIAGE BAN] OF DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG," SAYS MOLLY MCKAY, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY CALIFORNIA, A PROJECT OF EQUALITY CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE- THE ORGANIZATION SPONSORING THE CARAVAN.

"If we've learned anything from successful former civil rights struggles in our country, it is that we must stand up, reach out and hit the road to talk to our fellow Americans about why this form [same sex marriage ban] of discrimination is wrong," says Molly McKay, Associate Executive Director of Marriage Equality California, a project of Equality California Institute- the organization sponsoring the caravan.

"We will meet with local supporters across the heartland to ask them to sign our open letter to President Bush and drop off California care packages filled with marriage equality resources. We will hold rallies, BBQ's and meet up with local supporters to help feed the fire for marriage equality nationwide."

And that they did, between October 4-11th 47 caravan riders boarded the National Marriage Express Bus taking them on a 10 stop ride across our nation. Q-Ragg met up with the caravan on their first stop at the Sacramento State Capitol. As the riders walked off the bus, heads were turning as many were still in full marriage garb; male couples in tuxedos and some females in a white wedding dress complete with veil.

Soon a crowd began to gather before the 47 caravan riders and one by one each told their personal story of why they were riding. James and Eve Lubalin are a heterosexual couple married for 40 years and active members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "I want my daughter to be able to marry the person she loves. Her father and I want to be able to dance at her wedding, not at her domestic partner notarization. Her loving and committed relationship is no different than my own marriage and I want her to have the gift of a satisfying, loving family life, recognized and respected by the community." Said Eve about their 33 year old lesbian daughter. Eve was former Chief of Staff to a US Senator, holds a PhD. in Political Science, and is a current professor at the Fromm Institute, University of San Francisco. James is a board member of PFLAG, a retiree, and spends 25% of his time as a Health Services Researcher.

Davina Kotulki, PhD. Is a clinical psychologist, author of "Why you should give a damn about Gay Marriage" and originated the concept of the nationwide marriage caravan. She married her life partner and wife Molly McKay in San Francisco on February 12th. "I am on this caravan because I cannot stand by idle while Americans like myself are stripped of the ability to protect and provide for our families due to discriminatory state and federal Constitutional Amendments. There are 1,138 federal rights and hundreds of state rights that come with marriage. I honestly believe that most Americans do not understand the devastation they are causing our families by punching a "yes" on their ballot. I want to put and end to those

days and help create a future where LGBT persons have a place at the family table and are fulfilling part of the American dream."



Photo by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

Some of the rights that the caravan riders are fighting for come only with Civil marriage:

- Access to health insurance through spouse's workplace
- The right to custody of children after divorce
- Visitation rights for non-biological children
- Joint parenting rights, such as access to children's school records
- Access to life insurance through spouse's workplace
- Burial determination after the death of a spouse
- Immigration and residency priority for spouses from other countries
- Access to social security after spouse's death
- Ability to file wrongful death claims
- Access to tax breaks for married couples
- Access to adopting and/or fostering children
- Bereavement leave after death of a spouse

After leaving Sacramento, they headed to Reno, Nevada where they were greeted by only a handful of activists and many camera crews.

Once the caravaners finished saying their pieces by bullhorn, a few decided to test the waters in "The Wedding Chapel of the World" by engaging in "Operation Marry Reno" where they would ask to be married says Molly McKay. They walked into the Chapel Silver Bells and were greeted by two women wearing big blonde up-do's clearly gazing in disbelief at seeing several same sex couples dressed for the occasion approaching them while holding hands.

"Hello, we understand the Reno is the marriage capitol of the world and we got our marriage licenses invalidated in SF -we've been together 8 years and these guys have both been together 17 years -so were really hoping you would marry us today." She answered, "No, it's against the law here, nope." The group

gave them examples of what could happen to them without the protections of civil marriage. With some sympathy she answered, "But I can't because it's in the bible." They asked her "Where in the bible does it talk about same sex marriage?" To which she frankly answered "Well, no, it doesn't say anything about that. What does it say? -it's in there!" she answered as she questioned her sidekick. Stuart and Davina linked arms as did Molly and John, they then asked "Well, can we marry each other?" to which she replied "Sure." "But we don't love each other," they answered. "Well, that is your personal business, I can't get into that."

A few days and stops later, they arrived in Laramie, Wyoming as if by fate. Originally the caravan was supposed to arrive in Utah, but they refused a reception at all. Molly writes in her online journal: "It struck Davina that Matthew Shepard had been killed in October and searched the web to confirm her inkling. She was shocked to discover that our re-routing caused us to be in Laramie on the 6th anniversary to the day that Matthew was kidnapped from the Fireside Bar, brought to a secluded area, bound to a fence and pistol whipped, beaten and left for dead. We took it as a sign that we should re-route to Laramie. Part of the point of what we are doing with the caravan is to confront the hatred and bigotry against LGBT people that results in such senseless deaths. Matthew Shepard's death resulted in unprecedented attention on hate crimes, we wanted to make the pilgrimage and honor his memory."

Warmly received at the University of Wyoming by students, teachers, and officials alike. The elected state con-



Photo by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

gressman gave a meaningful speech on how Wyoming is known as the "Equality

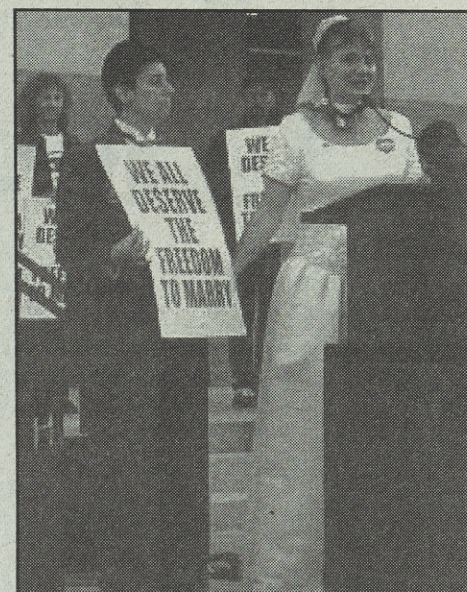


Photo by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

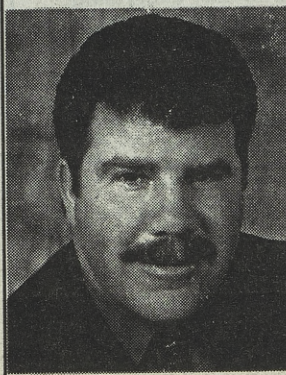
State" as it was the first to recognize women's right to vote. He acknowledged the struggles people of different religions and races in getting married and made parallels to the fight for same sex marriage. Laramie's Chief of Police greeted them warmly and spoke with a clearly emotional tone, "I lost my innocence at age 16 and my ignorance at age 45. I'm so glad you are here- it's another symbol of Matt's legacy. This day is always really hard for me because it all started six years ago today." He also told the crowd about how he used to be homophobic and said terrible things about gays and lesbians but after witnessing the impact on Matthew's family and lives of the community, he is a vocal supporter.

As the two ministers began a formal memorial service for Matthew in front of the run down and closed Fireside Lounge, out of nowhere the skies darkened and a fierce hailstorm began. The group took it as a sign from Matthew and proceeded to sing songs in memoriam. The hailstorm soon disappeared just as quickly as it had arrived.

The final day on October 11th was the rally, recommitment ceremony, and protest in front of the Washington, D. C. Capitol. Caravaners were singing "going to the Capitol, and we're going to get married" along the way. Each of the Marriage Express caravan got to say about a minutes worth of personal stories and facts before a crowd of several hundred people. It was an ecstatic culmination especially since C-Span was taping the protest.

Please visit marriageequalityca.org to watch part of the live coverage from C-Span, read the riders journal entries, see pictures and more.

Special Thanks for contributions by Molly, Davina, Jeanne, Jennifer, Stuart, and John and the caravaners with online blogs/summaries, personal interviews, and a helpful media kit provided to the Q-ragg.



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By N ephi

NOVEMBER, 2004

Aries, Mar 21-April 20: Hothead Aries, you are about to get a HUGE payoff from the Universal slot machine! Keep the faith, because all this waiting has paid off and soon your work will be recognized by everyone you've been wanting to take note of your talents. You're now at the point where you can definitely manifest in reality, so use your hard-won powers carefully! Screw failure, it's only a fear and Aries you have nothing to fear this month. Have an Altoid and laugh in the face of naysayers.

Taurus, April 21-May 21: Brooding Taurus, you are going to find yourself in a situation this month with only two choices. If you make the wrong one you'll find yourself betrayed and hurt. Never fear, you have the power to make the right choice, but the trick is, it's exactly the opposite of what you have done in the past. Look hard at the drama you've caused in the past and take a lesson from yourself. This is the only way to stop the pain you're setting yourself up for—again! Don't worry about money, just worry about the choice itself.

Gemini, May 22-June 21: Two-faced Gemini, you are in a spiritual resurgence. Cut ties with out-of-date beliefs and get a grip on what is real and what is not. Your own psychic ability will be at an all-time high, your attitude balanced and temperate. Don't be afraid of the sacrifices around your new beliefs, accept them with serenity and courage. You also plant new seeds around your future prosperity (in all areas).

Cancer, June 22-July 23: Uncontent Cancer, it's time to let go of the drama that's all in your own mind anyway. You deserve something or someone who mirrors your belief system more closely and that person or situation is rushing toward you right now. So, dreaming your dreams and let the Universe provide that which is rightfully yours. You'll be much much happier than you ever thought possible.

Leo, July 24-August 23: Bitchy Leo, Well, those petty problems you were concerned about have resolved themselves, haven't they? girlfriend, you need to get with it and allow those old ways of bitter dramatics to start fading away. After all, what do you have to prove? You've got friends who love you just the way you are. Stop trying to impress everyone! Just have patience, stay centered, and be happy.

Virgo, August 24-Sept. 23: Flaky Virgo, after much searching and hoping, you've finally found a perfect partnership to make your life whole. For the first time in years, maybe your whole life, you feel as though you can truly move ahead with all those creative plans you've had rolling around in your head. There have been times in the past few years when you've been ready to give up and walk away from it all—and that's right, YOU HAVE! Celebrate, but remember, the partnership is relatively new and it hasn't had time to completely develop so cool the freakiness and don't scare them off before the flame is fully lit.

Libra, Sept. 24-Oct. 23: Level-headed Libra, old drama that you thought was resolved will rear its ugly head and create havoc in your primary relationship. Just talk it through and you'll be fine. There are new opportunities on the horizon and taking advantage of the situation will take the pressure off you and your primary partner.

Scorpio, Oct 24-Nov. 22: Sexy Scorpio, if you haven't found your twin soul, this is the month to watch for them. The first half of the month is a time of happiness and celebration. The second half brings sadness around the misfortune of a friend. This will dampen your own joy somewhat, but cause you to appreciate even more what you have, and create a time of introspection for you. If you're not looking for a primary relationship, you are in an excellent position to find the best possible job this month. It's a time of perfect "partnerships."

Sagittarius, Nov. 23-Dec. 21: Self-involved Sagittarius, the Universe will be offering you several opportunities this month. Be careful about being too careful. I know that this is in opposition to your Sag nature but for some reason you're being more cautious at this point in time. You need to relax more and have more fun. You've been much too serious lately and perhaps working too hard. An excellent sign at this time is that even though you may be going through a rather difficult time, the end IS in sight! But, I want to reiterate that to be able to accept the above opportunities, you MUST relax!

Capricorn, Dec. 22-Jan. 20: Cautious Capricorn, November begins with transformation for you. A situation that looks like it's hopeless will soon turn around, unlike the election. It's a cycle, but because of the firm foundation you have built, all will be well but not without a lot of hard feelings on the part of everyone involved. As you give, so shall you receive, so you will turn those feelings of being "ripped off" into new understandings. That situation that recently brought so much pain with it will transform into feelings of joy and celebration.

Aquarius, Jan. 21-Feb. 19: Arrogant Aquarius, you're always a hard worker and you thought that everything was going to be all right immediately; however, it's going to take a little longer than you imagined. You may have to tear everything down and start all over again—but it will be worth it! So, give yourself permission to revise your plans and rethink who you want in your support system.

Pisces, Feb. 20-Mar. 20: Danger-loving Pisces, last month it looked like that younger person in your life was going to do a turn-around but it hasn't happened, has it? In fact, you're sadder than ever. It's time to let go completely. Once you've made that decision, you'll feel loads better. You've done to best you can to reverse the situation. Now you have to learn that it's all right just to say, "I quit!" If it's any consolation, you will have a message about new money coming to you late in the month.

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TAROTSCOPES by JESSICA RABBIT

Dear Jessica,

For the moment, I am comfortable with my job, but I don't feel like it's what I want to do for the long-term. How long do you foresee me staying in my job, and what skills can I develop that will be helpful for me in my next job?

-EMERYVILLE, CA



Dear Seeker,

Job stagnation can get the best of us sometimes, and we all fantasize about leaving our jobs and moving on to bigger, better things. Let's have a look at the cards and see what's coming up for you.

The card I drew for your past is the 3 of Wands. The 3 of Wands indicates that you have won several small victories in order to get your current job. Perhaps you beat out many other candidates, or overcame some difficulty when you got the job. I see this as a sign that you are in the right place, that the small victories are going to prepare you for larger ones. This card is also an indicator that patience is rewarded. I think you were waiting for a long time to get this break, but now it's only natural that you are beginning to look to the next goal.

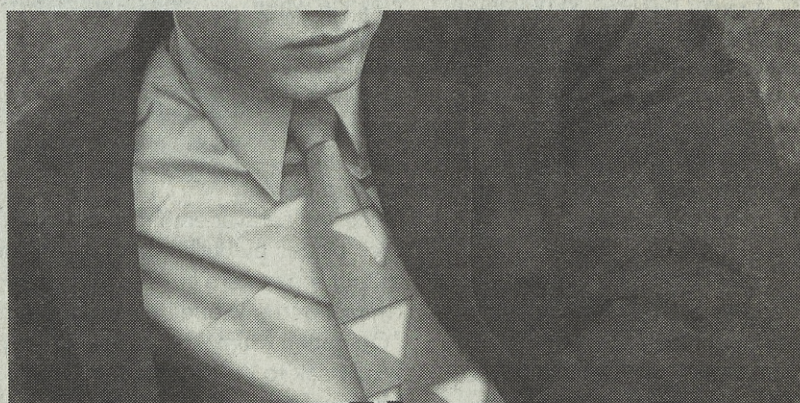
The card that I drew for your present condition is the Magician. This is a great card—it indicates growth and manifestation. I see you in a field that is medical in nature. I think that the skills you are currently learning will serve you well in your next situation, although I do not think you will necessarily go on in medicine. You have a lot of creative energy around you right now, and I think that the good thing about this job is that it gives you a lot of freedom to develop your own personal activities and goals. I also think it is helping you build leadership skills.

The card of your future is the 6 of Swords—calm acceptance of a harsh reality. I do not see you leaving your current job within the next 6 months. I think there is still a lot for you to learn and do there, and you are not finished with it yet. While the 6 of Swords can sometimes predict a journey, I interpret this as a spiritual passage for you in the coming months, rather than a physical one.

The last card I drew for you indicates what you must do, what tasks lay before you as you wait for the future to reveal itself. The card in this position is Strength. I would ask you here why it is that you want to leave something you have worked hard for, that allows you so much freedom? Is it a co-worker you don't like, or a company policy you object to? Sticking around and learning how to deal with that difficult situation is going to serve you better in your next job than any other skill. Flexibility is a very useful, and often neglected quality that we all wish for in co-workers and supervisors, so the better you are at strategically adapting to new developments, the better you will succeed in this endeavor as well as your next.

Good luck, and be blessed!

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person, and can be reached at sacredtarot@aol.com, or via the web at www.sacredtarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.



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Coffee With the 'Uptown' Girl ...

By Shira Davida Goldberg/Q-Ragg

ANYONE THAT HAS EVER MET ME KNOWS THAT MY LOCAL ROLE MODEL IS THE TINA REYNOLDS, GALLERY OWNER EXTRAORDINAIRE OF THE ACCLAIMED UPTOWN STUDIOS. TINA IS THE PREEMINENT SOCIAL ACTIVIST, LEADER, ARTIST, AND PHOTOGRAPHER, ALL AROUND MODERN-DAY RENAISSANCE WOMYN.

I met her at a Second Saturday and haven't looked back. After that fateful initial encounter, she has peeked my interest, and as I have found out, everyone else's. She fills a void, offering LGBTs what they want and what they need, enabling community a deeper connection through her projects, too many to remember, so I just had to get a hold of her to find out.

Her kind nature and uplifting demeanor have, universally touched those of us that are fortunate enough to know her in a more personable capacity. She is approachable and "in your face," always with a warm smile and a contagious enthusiasm. She is passionate about the issues that are so important to us, advocating on behalf of the families and individuals, reaching everyone from the ordinary to the extravagant, appreciating each as an individual, an important facet of our community. That passion has always accompanied her approachable persona and her genuine concern for the comfort of those around her.

Q When did you open Uptown Studios?

I opened Uptown Studios in 1992. I had just closed a corporate design studio that catered to clients like "Coke" and the like and was totally burned out creating work that just made people money. I made a physical and mental change to begin doing more nonprofit work and ultimately decided to keep my business at 75% nonprofit and 25% other. Those numbers have been consistent in my business plan through the last 12 years. I have created a business model based around "Social Marketing" which is creating social and behavior change through conventional and non-conventional marketing methods. So it's like the Lesbian Erotica Calendars, the issue was many younger queers were not aware that they could transmit STDs between each other... So we created something they would want to pick up (beautiful women) with very important health info on the back of each month. We did the same with the Men's Eros Calendars, very important info about STD HIV AIDS and more on the backs. I have been a radical, feminist, liberal, tree hugging, mother fucker for all my life... So my work is just an extension of my personal beliefs.

Follow your dreams; make a difference. Forget about funds, and forget about yourself. Most of us are too frightened, too selfish and too self-centered. We're focused on our own little world and our own little future. We need people with dreams making the world a better place ... people with visions of a better tomorrow for everyone... people willing to risk all for the next guy. I believe each of us has such a dream. Find it and make a difference! —Author Unknown

row for everyone... people willing to risk all for the next guy. I believe each of us has such a dream. Find it and make a difference! —Author Unknown

Q How did you become involved in art?

When I was 5 my favorite Aunt bought me a clown paint-by-number set. I think it was the smell of the oil paints that got me addicted. I didn't do any art for about 25 years, while I got my business up and running, raised my children, and got over involved in everything. About 4 years ago I stopped and just wanted to do something for myself—that was messy. All day long I create graphic work for everyone else, and it is always neat and tidy on the computer. So I just broke loose and got messy.

Q How long have you had your hand on Sacto's pulse?

I haven't found the pulse yet, I have ventured into CPR mode with Sacramento's. I just keep trying to figure out what might work and get others involved in community. Right now I am very interested in creating more culture downtown, people are skiddish of coming down here and it is truly the "cultural hub" of Sacramento, so I work at creating a safe environment for people to fill their heads and meet new people in an atmosphere that is filled with creativity.

Q When did you come out?

I came out in 1992 after I kissed my first woman... And have been celebrating the second half of my life ever since.

Q Words for today's LGBT youth in how to get involved?

I feel that involvement should be in the greater community. Our community is what you see when you look out your window. The best way to change the world is to be an active participant. So just do something, act like a role model and represent the queer community like you are a proud member, that is what all of our straight friends will remember. I donate work to Ronald McDonald House Charities, Sheriff's Toy Project, Mary House, Mustard Seed, Sacramento Crisis Nursery, along with all of the LGBT things I get involved in.

Q Current pursuits?

Gay Men and Lesbian Calendars, Latina Breast Health Calendars, Art Calendars for Women Take Back the Night, Marketing Campaign to help Mary House, Campaign for Respect – a social marketing campaign to help fight Bullying and Hate Crimes at the middle school level, Selling Art, Staying involved in



community events, Playing with my three granddaughters, Finding time to create new art (I will have a separate show at CSUS Student Union Gallery from Oct 28 through Nov), Photography, Meeting new and fun people

Q Past and present hosted events by Uptown Studios

Dang... The list would go on forever Men's mixers, women's mixers, fundraisers, art shows, movie nights, Drag Queen and Drag King Events, Photo events, private dinner parties, political discussions... And whatever else you could imagine.

Q Describe how our LGBT visibility and involvement have changed over the years.

No one has spit on me for over 10 years, no one has called me a faggot in over 8 years (I just yell "... Dyke!" back at them) although I still get called "Sir" and told I am in the wrong restroom. People that are straight see me as an invested community partner and trust me... And they like me, and some of them want to forgive me... But I don't let them unless I can forgive them back for all their judgmental attitudes.

Q. What is Sacramento Sisterhood? Please elaborate.

www.SacSisterhood.com started because I wanted to share queer health and community info. It is always in a state of flux here, because we are now promoting products for sale that help with the information we want to share. I started it because I wanted to have a web presence that was queer instead of having everything on Uptown Studios web site. And I can be more explicit with my materials... Get right to the point.

Q I think people are intimidated to get involved in community projects since they don't know where or how to start. Any recommendations?

Sign up for our email list serv at sacsisterhood.com/list.php — I try to include as much community stuff as possible, then just pick the stuff that sounds like fun, the more fun it is the more effective you will be within the group.

Q Do you represent LGBT artists exclusively?

No, although I have so many gay artists that do come to show. I don't try to separate artists by orientation or any boxes other than what will show well here and what will not.

Q Do you have a favorite quote?

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Meade

As I continue to pay close attention I gather much needed strength and sense of purpose in my own pursuits. It is just Tina, that little powerhouse that high-

lights ways to tap into people's fundamental needs. She is the embodiment of reciprocity, a pillar of progress in objective and in direction that we can revolve around.

With Tina everyone belongs, each voice is heard and every contribution is amplified. She has offered so much to our community and with her ability to seek truth, to find likeness within themselves and between one another. She represents one of us, someone who values our community and perpetuates our unified objective in her continued accomplishments through her projects, such as hosting Second Saturday Art Walk, and her remarkably successful Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, "I touch myself" (Which I do.)

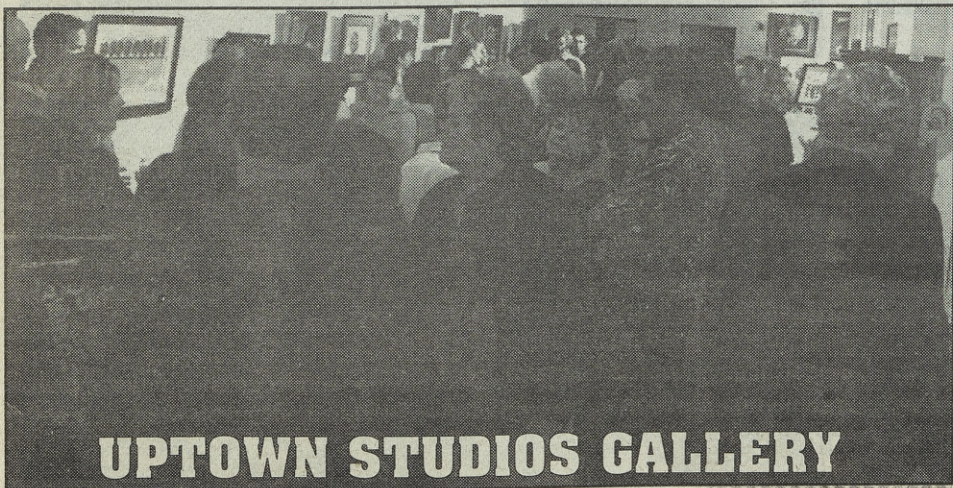
Her tremendous work over the past several years has helped uplift the Sacramento community by reaching out, opening the hearts, minds, and doors to those that want to get involved that currently feel unengaged. She is a nurturing advocate continuously, through arduous determination and a 'can do' attitude serves us by donating her time, talent



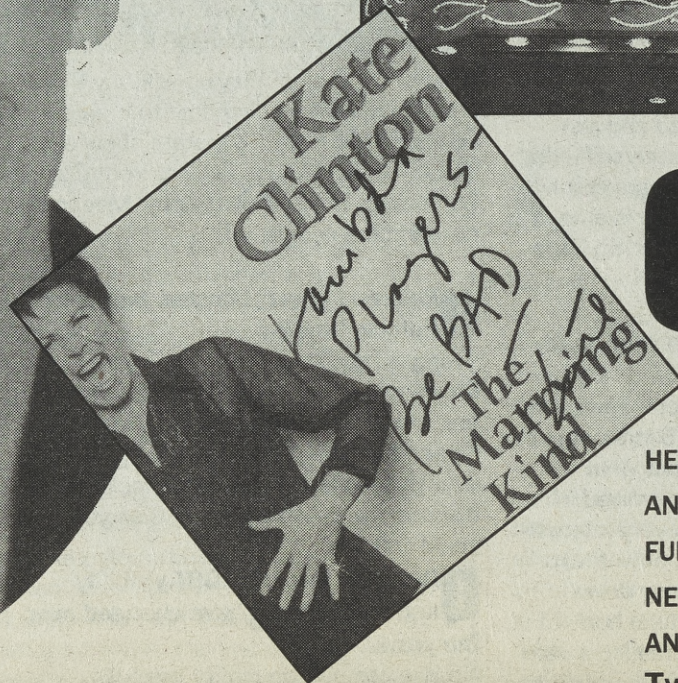
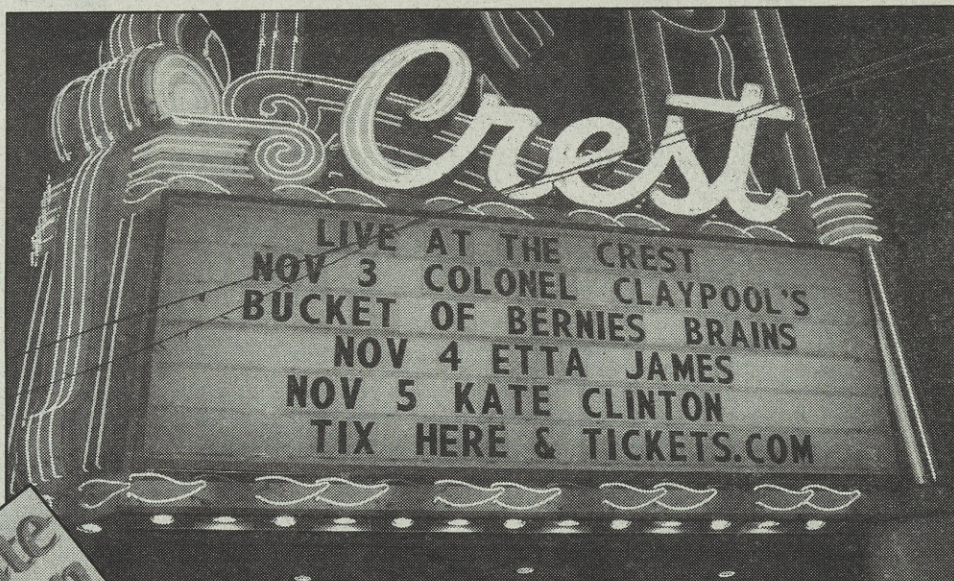
TINA REYNOLDS & SHIRA DAVIDA GOLDBERG AT THE 2004 RAINBOW FESTIVAL

and energies to a plethora of local queer communal resources. She networks with other professionals, community leaders, and artists, by supporting the innovative outreach of our community. She is an extension of us, as we are fortunate enough to have her in our world. She is a champion for LGBT inclusion, understanding and welcoming, her vision continues to fire our local resources and advocates efforts of countless individuals in and around our community. As we bask in her reflected glory, passionate pursuit to uplift, to inspire and to motivate, we also realize that we too, are just as capable to make such an impact.

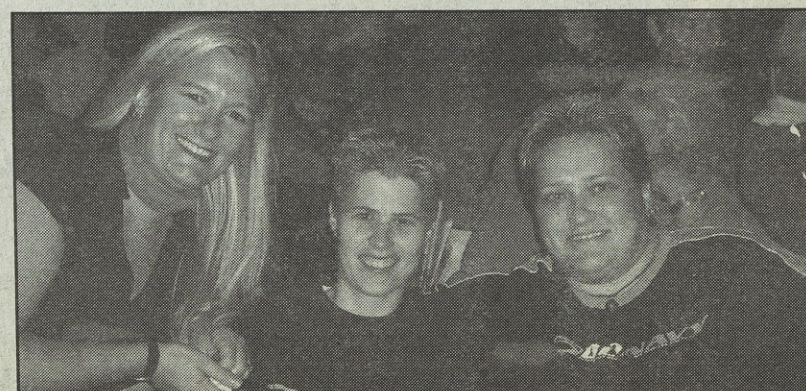
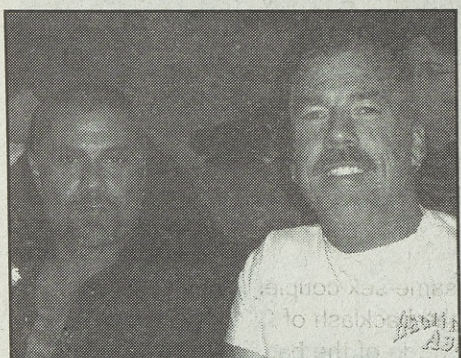
Stop by. Her bright orange door is literally open. 912 1/2 J Street.



Kate Clinton show a raging success!



ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5TH, SACRAMENTO AUDIENCES WERE TREATED TO A VERY SPECIAL POST-ELECTION EVENT. POLITICAL COMEDIENNE KATE CLINTON APPEARED AT THE CREST THEATER AND GAVE A VERY DEPRESSED VOTER BASE WHAT THEY NEEDED TO FACE THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. PROMOTING HER NEW CD *THE MARRYING KIND*, CLINTON'S APPEARANCE WAS PRODUCED BY THE LAMBDA PLAYERS AS A FUNDRAISER TO HELP FUND THEIR QUEST FOR A PERMANENT THEATRE SPACE. CLINTON'S 90-MINUTE PERFORMANCE RAN THE GAMUT FROM MARY CHENEY TO THE BUSH TWINS TO HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE CLITORIS. SHE WAS MET WITH THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE AND LEFT THE STAGE WITH A STANDING OVATION, ONLY TO BE MET BY A LONG LINE OF ADMIRING FANS AS SHE GRACIOUSLY SIGNED COPIES OF HER NEW CD.



Sam Catalano: New Realities

By Sam Catalano, Q-Munity Icon

RATHER THAN MY USUAL RANT AGAINST EMPEROR BUSH AND THE HOMOHATING REPUBLICAN PARTY, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A FEW OBSERVATIONS AND PROJECTIONS.

1. Personally, I was very surprised by how unemotional I was and am over what happened. I didn't get angry, cry, rant, depressed, moody or beat my chest. I just accepted what happened as the new reality, the new truths. And moved on. I do this on some things like Xmas decorations. I'm the sort that takes them down the day after Xmas and then moves on. It's over.

2. The Republican Nazi Party did a great job. Karl Rowe was brilliant. The Democratic Party took it in the shorts and has a very bleak future with no bright spots on the horizon. I think it's important to acknowledge the facts. If you look at a map of all the counties that Bush took, you will see that he captured nearly 90% of them. And I don't mean just in the red states. Look at Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania - three states that went for Kerry. What you really see is that Detroit, New York City and Philadelphia went for Kerry and overwhelmed the rest of the state. Even in Oregon and Washington, Bush carried nearly all the counties but not Portland or Seattle. Nearly the entire country is, in fact, red. Those areas that voted for Kerry are few in number but large in population. Meanwhile the red areas keep growing. Not a good omen for the Democrats or us.

3. I guess I will have to stop calling them the "homohating Republicans." At least Karl Rowe loves us, or more accurately, loves same sex marriage. The irony of the 2004 campaign may be that the State of Massachusetts (or the Supreme Court thereof) brought about the defeat of their very own Senator and candidate by raising the issue of legalized same sex marriage. In eleven states this election cycle, the heterosexual Republican voters crushed our hope for equal and fair treatment. The truth and reality is that this issue brought the religious bigots out in droves and killed John Kerry and the Democratic Party.

4. Observations on the future: Due to the fallout from this election and the victories by the Republicans (except

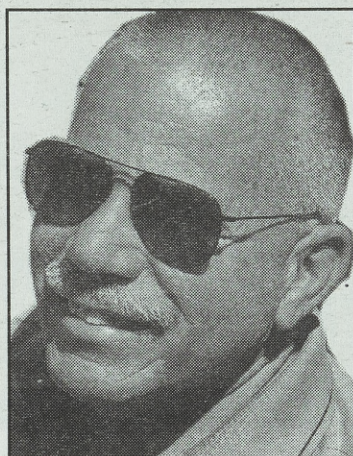


Photo By June Vargas/Q-Ragg

in CA), same sex marriage is dead, dead, dead. I predict Assemblyman Mark Leno's marriage bill will die a quick death in the CA Legislature. And the Democrats will kill it. The Republicans will hope it passes. Why? Because the second such a bill were to pass and be signed, the Republicans will have a referendum on the 2006 ballot faster than you can say "we got'em now."

5. Observation 2: If you think 2004 was ugly for equality, wait for 2006 and 2008. The religious bigots will have constitutional amendments on every ballot in every state. And they will use it, as they did so successfully this year, to crush the Democrats. Sadly, to limit the damage, I predict many Democrats will lead this parade in self-defense.

6. Observation 3: The proposed constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage is alive and well and may, in fact, now move forward in Congress and the states (although this is still difficult to do). However, the constitutional amendment may very soon be a moot point as state after state bans same sex marriage.

7. Observation 4: The Democratic Party has a very bleak future. The solid Republican South is now locked in concrete. And the Midwest. These are conservative times and getting more so. The good news is that the progressive wing tried very hard to fight back, to finally get organized, raise money, yell and scream back. But trust me, the "let's take the high road, girlie men" Democrats in the USA and here in CA will fall all over themselves loosing their spine. And we can look only to the Democrats to defend and protect us from the Republican Religious Nazi Party. Not a good omen for us.

What's next? We'll talk.

SCATALANO@Q-RAGG.COM

Dan Roth: Surviving the Backlash

By Daniel Roth

President Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

IN 1965 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON SIGNED THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT. THE NEW LAW BROUGHT AN UNPRECEDENTED FEDERAL INTRUSION INTO LOCAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH.



Photo By Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

Voting registration and criteria had always been considered a matter of local and state control. Now if any county failed to register 50 percent of the voting age population that would be considered prima facie evidence of racial discrimination, and the Justice Department would take over control of the registration process. The next Presidential election brought a major backlash against the Democratic Party in the once solid Democratic south, and Richard Nixon, the Republican nominee for President, used this racial backlash to elevate himself to the Presidency.

However, we did not turn our backs on the civil rights gains made in the 1960's. In fact, in 2004 we cannot imagine a world of separate lunch counters for African Americans and denying people the right to vote based on their race.

November 2, 2004 brought another backlash. After years of several victories from Governor Davis signing the Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act, to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriages, gay and lesbian couples have witnessed our civil rights victories advance at a pace we only dreamed about just ten years ago. And just like every civil rights movement in the history of the United States, the backlash has begun.

BUT JUST LIKE 1968, WE CANNOT PERMIT AN ELECTORAL BACKLASH TO TEAR DOWN THE ADVANCEMENTS WE HAVE MADE. IN FACT, LOOKING AT THE 2004 EXIT POLLS, THERE IS A SILVER LINING IN THE ELECTORAL DEFEAT. ALTHOUGH ONLY FOUR PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE IDENTIFIED AS GAY OR LESBIAN, ONE QUARTER OF PEOPLE VOTING SUPPORT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND A MAJORITY SUPPORT CIVIL UNIONS. EVEN

PRESIDENT BUSH SAID THAT HE SUPPORTS CIVIL UNIONS.

And the backlash did not impact California. Democrats still have large majorities in both the Assembly and Senate. Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) will be introducing The Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act in December, and the Speaker of the Assembly has dedicated to passing it through the legislature. Sacramento elected slates of gay friendly officials to local office, and the Sacramento City Council on Thursday November 4, unanimously passed the Non-Discrimination in Public Contracting Ordinance, so all businesses that contract with the city will have to offer the same benefits to domestic partners that they offer to married couples.

It is easy to look at the results of last Tuesday and get angry, sad, or depressed. And we could give up, move to Canada, and let the backlash win. But we can do better. We can learn from the civil rights leaders in the 1960s, who in the midst of defeat continued their struggle.

SO INSTEAD OF GIVING UP, WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE, CONTINUE TO GIVE OUR TIME AND MONEY TO PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES, AND CONTINUE TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. If we don't let the backlash beat us, then in 40 years we will look back at the America of 2004 with embarrassment. Our children and grandchildren will live in a world where our government does not tolerate discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace or in the rights and responsibilities afforded to same-sex couples. They will look at the backlash of 2004 the same way we do of the backlash of 1968 and wonder how the world could have been any other way.

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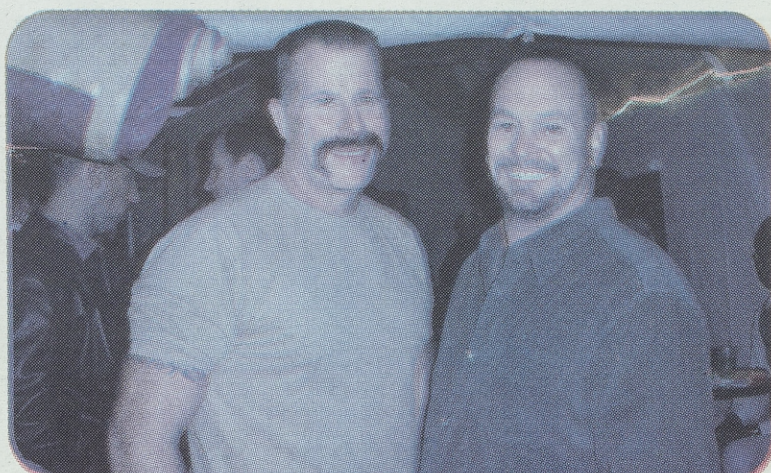
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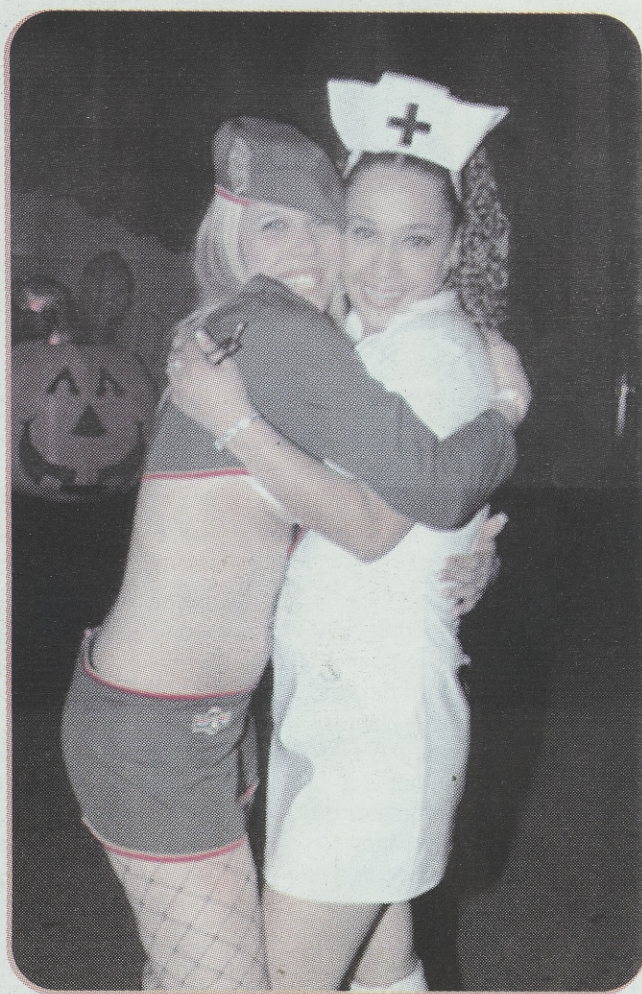


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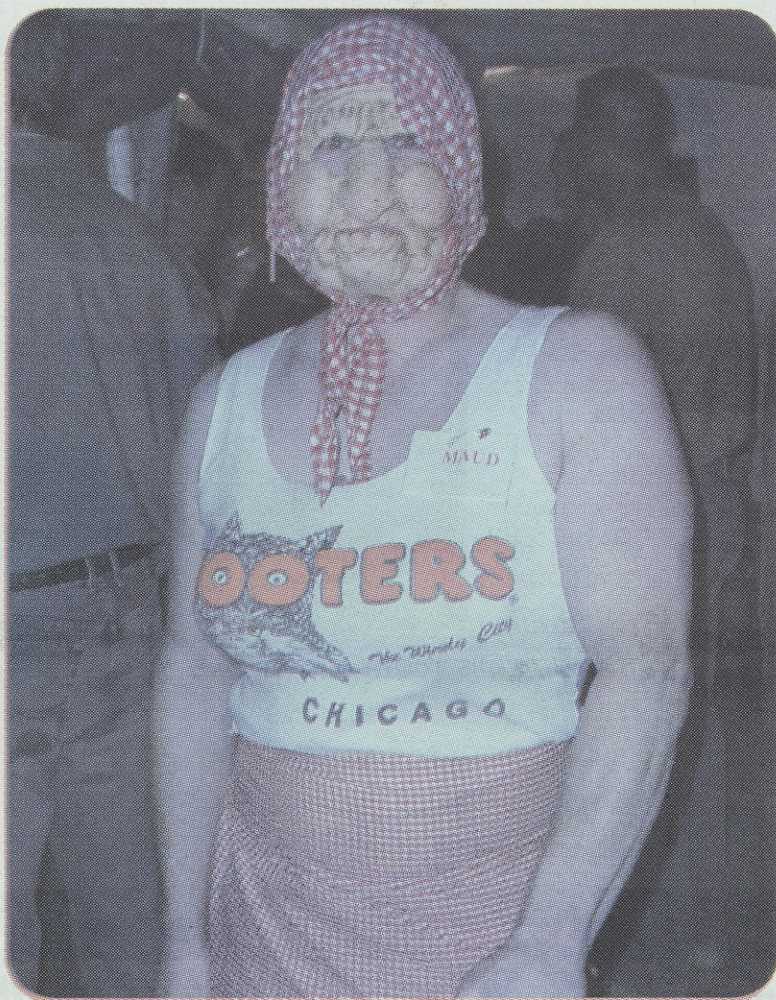


Spooky and sexy pics of Halloween 2004 in Lavender Heights





n & george hansen III



der Heights: FACES, Club 21, The Merc, Hot Rods and The Depot



ADMIT ONE

TOM SWANNER



BRIAN JUDD

ADMIT ONE

Fall movies off to a slow start ...

BITCH SLAPS



Swanner: I love when people ask me if I've seen any good movies lately. They never want to know if I've seen any bad movies. To me that is a much better barometer of what to risk my money on. If I know someone hates a movie then I know whether to stay clear of it or not. Now that Brian and I are spending more time at the theatre seeing new releases, it wasn't a surprise when Brian and I ran into each other at *The Grudge*, a movie by the way that left me exhausted the following morning since I got no sleep after seeing the movie.

Judd: I thought the movie was pretty spooky, too, and the 20-some-

thing frat boy who was sitting two seats away from me definitely thought it was scary. He kept covering his face like a teenage girl! When I heard that it was another American take on a Japanese film like *The Ring* I was not looking forward to seeing it—I hated *The Ring*. But unlike that piece of trash, this movie had some genuine thrills, a decent story, and wasn't just a conglomeration of scary clichés.

Swanner: I saw *Ju-on*, the Japanese version of the film; *The Grudge* is actually scarier, even though it's the same director shooting almost scene for scene from the original. You could tell the director really learned what didn't work the first time and made it work this time. I loved that the audience we saw it with was a lot of teenaged girls; they screamed at everything. It was fun and yes, when I was lying in bed that night, every time I opened my eyes I was afraid to see that scary face from the attic. I only got about an hour of sleep.

JUDD: THOSE WERE THE TEENAGE GIRLS SQUEALING LIKE THAT? I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU.

SWANNER: NO, I'M MORE OF A MOANER. I still haven't heard what you thought of *Team America*.

Judd: I was hoping you wouldn't bring it up. I have to say that I was disappointed with *Team America*. First of all I missed the matinee cut-off so I paid full admission. This movie is definitely not worth almost \$10; I don't even think it was worth matinee prices. I didn't think the movie was funny. There were some funny moments, yes, but overall I thought the movie fell flat. The majority of the jokes just didn't work. The songs, on the other hand, were hilarious!

Swanner: I'll admit you are right about it not working. I give them props for actually making a full-length film with nothing but marionettes, but I didn't like the story the movie told. It was like watching George W. play with puppets. It had a severe warmongering slant to it that I found disturbing. Everything was "if it doesn't work destroy it, and if we don't like them then we need to kill them. I did have a good time for the most part, but I don't think it's a keeper. It may grow on me, but right now...I would bet not. On the subject of bad, *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* was pretty darn awful.

Judd: Actually I liked *Sky Captain*—except for Gwyneth Paltrow. I thought the story was a bit bland, but the movie was visually stunning, which is the reason I went. I wasn't going for an in-depth story and terrific acting. In fact I'M



WILLING TO SAY THE REASON THIS MOVIE DIDN'T DO AS WELL AS IT SHOULD HAVE IS BECAUSE GWYNETH

STUNK UP THE WHOLE DAMN THING. SHE REEKED! The only person that could have done a worse job is her ex, Ben Affleck.

Swanner: Did they date? Scary!

Judd: Could you imagine their children? Bland and stupid!

Swanner: I never really like Gwyneth in anything. She's just another child of a famous person made into a Hollywood success story...but I'm not bitter. During the film I kept hoping her character would get killed. That's not a good thing when it's the main character.

Judd: True.

SWANNER: ONE THING I THOUGHT WAS INTERESTING IS THAT BOTH OF US WERE INVITED TO A SCREENING OF AFFLECK'S NEW FILM SURVIVING CHRISTMAS BUT NEITHER OF US WANTED TO WASTE THE TWO HOURS IT WOULD TAKE TO WATCH IT; I THINK THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES.

Swanner: *Shark Tale* was cute for the most part—once you got through Will Smith's attempt at being a "homey." I liked it more than you did, but I really could have done without Will Smith.

Judd: *Shark Tale* was all right. It seemed to me that Dreamworks' motivation was "HEY! Disney just put out a fish themed computer animated movie. We

should, too! And we'll hire big names to do the voices! What? What was that about a decent plot and good jokes? Bah! Who needs 'em? We'll have Will Smith and Jack Black!"

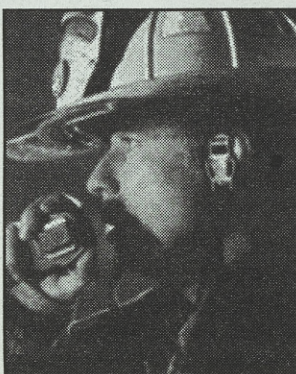
Swanner: I know you didn't see it but I hated *Ladder 49*. It didn't tell a story, it was just a boring movie with lots of fire special effects. I mean really, a firehouse wear all the guys sleep with their clothes on. No shower scene? They even had a very uncomfortable homo moment that was made into a joke. Save your time and go watch *First Daughter*, which I liked. It was a sweet, romantic ball of fluff.

JUDD: UGH! FIRST

DAUGHTER IS TOOTH DECAY ON FILM. IT WAS LIKE CHEWING ON SUGAR CUBES FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF AND THEN WASHING THEM DOWN WITH MOUNTAIN DEW.

Swanner: Does that mean you didn't like it? Danny (my husband) liked it a lot. I did see *Napoleon Dynamite*. I wanted to like it, but it was paced like *Lost In Translation*. I hated everyone and in this case it hit too close to home. Not to say I was a geek in High School...but I was...and this movie was more disturbing then charming. October was a mediocre month for movies.

Judd: I wanted to see *Napoleon Dynamite*, now I'm glad I didn't if you say it was paced like *Lost in TRASH-lation*.



SWANNER

First Daughter ... 2 bitchslaps
Sky Captain ... 4 bitchslaps
Team America ... 3 bitchslaps
The Grudge ... 2 bitchslaps
Shark Tale ... 2 bitchslaps
Ladder 49 ... 4 bitchslaps
Napoleon ... 4 bitchslaps

JUDD

First Daughter ... 4 bitchslaps
Sky Captain ... 2.5 bitchslaps
Team America ... 3 bitchslaps
The Grudge ... 2 bitchslaps
Shark Tale ... 3 bitchslaps

Shall We Dance?

By Tom Swanner/Q-Ragg

If you saw the original Japanese version of this film then you're pretty much going to see the same film, still that's not a bad thing. The original is good, but I liked this one just a bit more. The basic storyline is about a man (Richard Gere) bored with his life until one night he sees a sad woman (Jennifer Lopez) staring out a window. The next night as he sees her again and realizes she works at a dance studio. He enrolls for dance lessons but gets more then he expects, he finds that dancing makes him feel alive again. I can tell you Brian would be suicidal 15-minutes into this movie, but I found it charming and romantic.

The supporting cast is wonderful including Susan Sarandon, Stanley Tucci, Anita Gillette and breakthrough performances from Bobby Cannavale, Omar Benson Miller and especially Lisa Ann Walter. Walters plays "Bobbie" a very funny, sharp tongue Bette Milder style character who steals every scene she's in. If you liked the movie *Strictly Ballroom* then you stand a good chance of liking this film. Everything about this movie is beautiful. This is one of those feel good movies that will appeal mostly to my generation. I can hear Brian now: "you mean old people" and to that I would say, "Yes." One bitchslap because it's not perfect, but it's pleasingly close.



The Incredibles

By Brian Judd/Q-Ragg

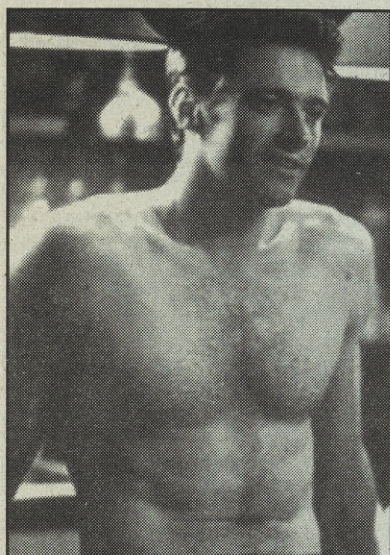
The other night I went to see Disney/Pixar's *The Incredibles*, and let me tell you Pixar has done it again. I could say "they" have done it again, but Disney is nothing more than a distributor for Pixar—hence the reason the movie was actually good.

The basic story is about a world where superheros are forced to live normal lives as a result of expensive frivolous lawsuits filed against them. (A little social commentary, maybe?) Mr. Incredible earns a living as an insurance adjuster. His wife is a stay-at-home mom taking care of three kids. Mr. Incredible is offered a job that is really a trap so that his enemy may emerge as the next big superhero. The whole family gets involved and they foil the bad guy's plot.

OK, so it's your standard superhero plot—nothing new. What really sells this movie, and what has made all of Pixar's films, is the graphics and the writing. It's amazing that some of the scenes in the movie almost look real, and all the water scenes are absolutely breathtaking. The writing reminds me of the old *Muppet Show* or Warner Bros.' *Animaniacs* where the humor is smart and funny to both children and adults.

I give *The Incredibles* 1/2 a bitchslap only because I don't think it was good enough to go without one at all, but it came very close. This movie is a definite "Must See."





HUGH JACKMAN OF VAN HELSING

Van Helsing

By Swanner & Judd

Swanner: Summer movies usually come without fully developed plots and are far over produced—and I'm happy to say this summer wasn't any different. *Van Helsing* sits on top of the heap as all action, special effects, amazing stunts and an incredibly goofy plot, but it is still likable. Brian, why don't you give us a synopsis of this film?

Judd: I have to agree with you, Tom. I remember the advertising blitz that came along with this movie and thought for sure it was going to be an all-out effects extravaganza. The plot that was offered up involves Van Helsing (Hugh Jackman) as a 19th Century monster-slayer who is called upon to help the remaining two members of a family that for 400 years has vowed to kill Count Dracula.

Swanner: That would be the Valerious kids; a brother and sister team that can really kick ass in the 19th century. When I was watching the film, the beginning was really promising. It looked like the old monster movies with the villagers carrying touches and swearing to kill the monsters. It was almost perfect and then BANG! we were back to the summer movie I expected.

Judd: I felt the same way. The first 14 or 20 minutes of the movie were really good—and then they introduced Richard Roxburgh as Dracula. He was so horrible that I thought the movie was switching to tongue-in-cheek. Between his horrible accent and awful acting, I really thought they were trying to spoof Bela Lugosi.

Swanner: It turned into a "summer popcorn" movie faster than you could say "schlock filmmaking." But the movie moves well—when we first meet Anna (Kate Beckinsale) in the town square you certainly can't call that sequence "boring."

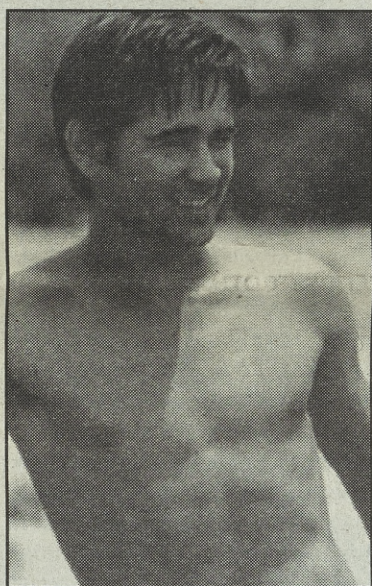
Judd: I didn't think any of the movie was boring... corny... but not boring. What I did like was the plot point that some of the monsters weren't totally evil, and that the villagers weren't happy when Van Helsing saved them. For instance, a werewolf is only a werewolf during a full moon, any other time he could be someone's brother, son or husband; it was an interesting thing to think about. I also liked the fact that Frankenstein's monster kept true to Mary Shelly's novel. Actually it seems that Writer/Director Stephen Sommers applied Shelly's humanitarian theme to all the monsters in this movie—aside from Dracula who is pure evil because he made a pact with the Devil.

Swanner: The movie was panned by everyone, but I really think most critics don't understand what summer movies are all about. You can bitch about the lack of story or the bad accents but I was still pretty entertained for 2 hours.

Judd: Me too. It's mindless entertainment great for a lazy weekend. I

watched this movie expecting much less than what I got. There were some "thinking points" made, but they never got too deep. The monsters were given more life and purpose than I think they're given in most other monster movies. I also think that Sommers tried and marginally succeeded in presenting these monsters in a new and unique way, from there appearance to their character quality and even the way the werewolf morphed from human to dog and back. So I rate it two and a half bitch slaps. Not good, but not bad either.

Swanner: I did like Frankenstein and the brides of Dracula and since Hugh Jackman is shirtless through much of the second half of the film, that was OK with me. The director is the same guy who did the *Mummy* movies that were non-stop action and that's pretty much what we have here. It's a popcorn movie; it's what summers are based on. Sitting inside an air-conditioned theatre with a tub of corn, watching some mindless action adventure film. It's completely flawed, but I'm not going to marry it—I'm going to watch it once and move on to the next film of this genre. I'm going to give it 2 bitchslaps because it's not a great movie but it was entertaining and the werewolf was hot. I'm so shallow.



SUPERHUNK ACTOR COLIN FARRELL

Home at the End of the World

By Swanner & Judd

Swanner: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham's novel following two childhood friends comes to DVD this month. Colin Farrell stars as "Bobby", a sweet-natured innocent, and Dallas Roberts plays "Jonathan", Bobby's best friend, and sometimes lover, over their 30-year relationship.

Judd: You forgot Robin Wright Penn as "Claire", the third partner in this lovers' triangle. But I'm sure you were too busy drooling over Colin Farrell and waiting for his c@ck-shot to notice her. *Home at the End of the World* is actually about sexually-ambiguous Bobby, his gay friend Jonathan, and aging hippie Claire during their growing and evolving relationship and family life through the '80s. And for those youngsters out there that think big hair and The Bangles at the mention of the '80s—this movie isn't for you!

Swanner: OK, most people will remember this as the movie that had Colin Farrell doing a full-frontal nude shot that was so distracting for test audiences that it was cut out. Damn those test audiences! The film starts out in 1967 where we see Bobby and his family living a very groovy lifestyle. (I can use the term groovy since I'm older than you) Fast forward to 1974 where Bobby

and Jonathan become friends.

Judd: Wow, you actually did pay attention! Bobby and Jonathan become very close friends during their teenage years, and director Michael Mayer was not afraid to show exactly how close. Fast forward to 1982 and Jonathan living in NYC with Claire and a drifting Bobby joins up with them. Do you want to cap off the plot?

Swanner: Let's just say that the rest of the film focuses on the three characters and their extra-special relationship.

Judd: OK, so I liked this movie, even though, overall, I think it was artistic fluff. Also, I think I liked this movie because I went to High School with a kid that was just like Bobby. Watching this movie really reminded me of him (his name was Nevada) and I can fully imagine his life taking a similar path. In fact, if I didn't hate high school memories so much I'd actually try and look him up!

Swanner: I liked the movie as well. I liked that the director, as you mentioned, did not hold back from relating the sexual relationship of the characters in their teenaged years. I also thought the different time periods were captured well. What impressed me most was Colin Farrell—not just because he's my future husband—but because I never imagined him playing such a sensitive role. I expect roles like *SWAT* and *The Recruit*. I never saw this coming.

Judd: I was thinking the same thing. This is the first Colin Farrell movie I've seen. I'm familiar with his "bad-boy" exploits, and of course you can't escape his abundance of publicity shots. Personally, until I saw this film, I never thought he was all that attractive. Colin Farrell, Jude Law, Orlando Bloom—they all look alike to me. I think this movie really showcased Colin's gentility (I said 'gentility', not genitals) and proved the level of acting he's capable of doing.

Swanner: Of course that's not saying that the rest of the film isn't up to par with Farrell. The other actors are very good, including Sissy Spacek who plays Jonathan's mother. She was really great and it was nice seeing big name actors starring in a very small film, and for a first time director.

Judd: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's all nice and good, but you know as well as I do, people will be renting or buying this movie for Colin. Dallas, Robin, Sissy and don't forget Matt Frewer, are all afterthoughts. That's a shame because their performances were all very good. But let's be realistic, this movie is going to be known for the fact that Colin's penis made test audiences gasp. I think that if it weren't for that publicity boost (stunt?) the movie wouldn't have done as well.

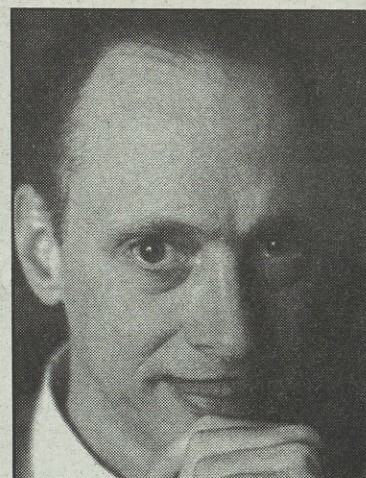
Swanner: Actually, the movie didn't do crap and that's with Colin Farrell. You're right though, for a change, the director said that he was going to put the cut scene in the deleted scenes for the DVD so you can count on me getting the DVD the second it is out. Did you know Colin is 28 years old—do you think I'm too old for him?

Judd: I didn't know that, and no, I don't think you're too old for him. I'm told many actors have daddy fetishes—or in your case "auntie" fetishes.

Swanner: My, aren't we hateful today. After that, I'm ready to hand out some bitchslaps. For the film, I'm giving it one bitchslap for cutting out the BIG scene in the movie. As for you, Dear, four bitchslaps and no invitation to Colin's and my commitment ceremony.

Judd: ...ph...ouch...please let me come...whatever! I'm rating the film two bitchslaps. The movie is Pucci colored cotton candy—a little trippy, fun to look at, but lacking any real substance. As for

this commitment ceremony, I'll be sure to wear my pink faux mink parka because it'll be a cold day in hell when THAT happens.



DIRECTOR JOHN WATERS

Dirty Shame

By Tom Swanner/Q-Ragg

Have you ever been the only person in the room to get a joke and when you laugh, the rest of the room looks at you like you're a freak? That's how it was when I went to see *A Dirty Shame*. I've been a big fan of John Waters' movies since they were able to put them on video. Growing up here, Sacramento didn't offer too many theatres that would show his early pictures, so the VCR was a great tool for Waters to get his films to other places they wouldn't normally be shown.

I'm not sure why I like his movies except for the fact that they are just plain funny. Well...they are funny if you can leave your morals at the theater door. Right from the opening credits I was laughing. The camera explores what appears to be quiet Baltimore neighborhood while a song about our main character, Silvia, plays in the background.

Silvia, played by Tracey Ullman, is a working class woman with a horny husband and a daughter locked up in the room over the garage with a house arrest anklet—could her world be any worse? All that changes when Silvia gets a concussion and becomes a sexual addict with the help of Ray Ray, played by the sext Johnny Knoxville, a devilish creature trying to find a new way of getting off. No, I'm not making this up.

Needless to say, this NC-17 film just keeps getting filthier as it goes along. If you have been a fan of Waters' films, especially the earlier ones, then you should have a pretty good time. If you only know John Waters from that nice Broadway show *Hairspray*...hold on to your seat, because you have just entered the Twilight Zone. For me, it's nice to see the old John Waters back, but with good film quality and some... well, better actors.

This is a foul, and at times disgusting, film but I was ready for it. I knew it was NC-17 and I knew the storyline so I got what I expected and maybe even hoped for. But when the ending credits started, I looked around the theatre only to discover that only a few people remained.

So here is my warning: if you have seen *Pink Flamingos* or *Female Trouble* and liked them or thought they were funny, by all means see *A Dirty Shame*. If you thought that Waters' last movie, *Pecker*, crossed too many lines, then I would suggest staying home and watching *The Sound of Music* this weekend. I can't give this movie no bitchslaps because I think John Waters would feel cheated so I'll give it two big bitchslaps in hope for a concussion and a visit from Ray Ray.



Erik & Isabelle

By Ricky Diaz Anaya/Q-Ragg

FINALLY THERE'S A GROUNDBREAKING BOOK SERIES THAT LGBT YOUTH AND ADULTS CAN NOT ONLY RELATE TO, BUT CAN TRULY ENJOY READING. **ERIK & ISABELLE FRESHMAN YEAR AT FORESTHILL HIGH** BY KIM WALLACE IS A STORY ABOUT TWO BEST FRIENDS GOING THROUGH THE TYPICAL JOURNEYS OF GROWING PAINS, IDENTITY CRISIS, FAMILY DRAMA, AND ROMANTIC CRUSHES THAT MOST HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN GO THROUGH, WITH ONE BIG EXCEPTION; **ERIK AND ISABELLE ARE GAY AND LESBIAN.**

"Everyone knew about Isabelle at Foresthill High; her reputation preceded her. There were different versions to the rumors about her, and the ones floating around the cheerleading squad were the least flattering. Girls avoided her in the locker room, sure that she was checking them out, a game that Isabelle often played along with for her own amusement. Being the only out-lesbian in Foresthill was a title Isabelle wore with pride. As she always said to Erik, "Might as well be notorious for something than invisible for nothing."

Isabelle's unique style, outspokenness, and creativity began to appeal to a questioning head cheerleader in her class, Mandy. Soon, they end up working on a class project together which brings each of them closer than they had ever imagined. Before long, Mandy and Isabelle are head over heels in love with one another and, as time progresses, each must face personal and social challenges of such an unconventional pairing.



As for Isabelle, "...her parents had been Peace Corps hippies who marched in every conceivable protest and boycotted all of the shady corporations. They were militant vegetarians and recyclers with a vengeance. She knew that when she walked through her door, her mom, dad, brother and sister would be all doing their own eccentric things, making her feel normal for the first time all day."

"Erik's house on the other hand, was militant in the opposite way: they were military, through and through. His father and older brother were both Marines, ...Everything was done in military fashion: food was called rations, time was spoken of in terms of "nineteen hundred hours," beds were hospital cornered, and hair clipped short. Though his father's drill sergeant "Sir, Yes, Sir" directives stiffened his spine and locked his knees, the gentleness in Erik's hazel eyes refused to be hardened. His father saw and despised this softness." Erik's father would often ask him "Son, are you going to be a soldier or a faggot?"

Erik's desperate isolation and hunger for knowledge and friendship with those like him lead him to discover the power

of the Internet. Secretly covering his tracks from his homophobic and controlling father, Erik cleverly navigates online to do research on the many persecuted groups on the Holocaust. A topic he knew included gays and lesbians, and a perfect excuse if he were to be caught online in a gay related web page. Not only was the Internet discreet enough for Erik to devour any online LGBT history, it also put him in contact with others like him through a gay teen chat room. Erik begins to discover a whole new world and develops a romance with Rainboy76, a kid his age who attends a nearby high school.

Q Kim, I'm curious as to how you came about writing Erik & Isabelle Freshman Year at Foresthill High?

I just got the first line in my head as I was driving home one day from school. I knew that it was the first line to a novel, but I didn't know what it would be about. Once I wrote it down, the whole first chapter spilled out. I continued writing that way every day, unsure as to who would enter each scene and how they would leave it. Ten weeks later the entire manuscript was complete. I guess the topic chose me; I didn't choose it. But I'm glad nevertheless. There isn't much out there that reflects contemporary glbt teens' lives, so I'm thrilled to be a contributor to that market.

Q Do you have a coming out story you'd like to share with the readers?

When I was in high school, we weren't exposed to gay people in the media like we are now. I didn't really think about being gay as an option until I got to college. Even so, it took me until my senior year in college to come to the conclusion that I might be a lesbian and another two years to finally fall in love and awaken to a deeper knowledge of myself. Of course, after I discovered that I was gay, I looked back at my high school years and saw so many indicators that I'd missed along the way.

I was a first year teacher when I came out to myself and it was a terrifying year. I was sick to my stomach every day, hoping no one would find out. I was teaching in a conservative Bay Area town—my hometown and alma mater, actually—and I thought if anyone found out, I'd get fired. Three years later, once my reputation as an excellent teacher had been established, I came out to the whole faculty when we were participating in a staff development day on GLBT issues. It was the most freeing moment of my life and, from that point on, I recognized that courage, although scary, is a better alternative than fear.

Q How has your book series impacted students, youth, parents, and adults? Has it been implemented in any H.S. curriculum?



As an author, you sometimes don't know the impact of your work because the reading public often doesn't respond directly to the source. However, I have had the unique experience of interacting with many people in the community who've read my book or from teachers who've given it to their students. Almost every time I've heard the feedback that every author longs to hear: "I couldn't put it down" and "When's the next book coming out?" Right now a GLBT high school in New York City is considering it for their curriculum and some local Gay Straight Alliance groups are doing book studies on Erik & Isabelle. I've created a reproducible 45-page curriculum guide to accompany the book, so it can easily be implemented in full classrooms or small study groups.

Q Where can Sacramento locals purchase your book. Are there online purchase options as well?

The book is available on my website: www.foglightpress.com and through amazon.com. I also work with a distributor who can get it into any bookstore that requests it. When I do author appearances, I also have a box of books with me for sale. I will be appearing on a panel discussion before the matinee performance of the Laramie project at UC Davis on Nov. 3 as well as doing a book reading and signing that same evening at the Lavender Library. My website has an up to date calendar on the forum section with my schedule on it.

Q What do you hope people attain as they read this book?

Hope. High school can be miserable for many young people. I just want them to know that it won't always be the way that it is right now and to just stick it out and make it to see where their lives end up. Whoever told that lie about high school being the best years of your lives never went to high school. There are a lot of valuable lessons in high school, but they aren't ever easy.

So many kids who are gay, lesbian, questioning, or straight feel isolated and alone in high school; I want Erik & Isabelle to be a companion for them regardless of sexual orientation. The book isn't just a 'gay book'; it's a book that reflects the common experiences of falling in love, dealing with conflicts at school, fitting in, getting along with parents, etc.—issues that all students face.

Q When can we expect Erik and Isabelle's Sophomore Year to come out?

It will be available by summer of 2005, and I'm currently working on Junior Year.

For more information, contact: Foglight Press P.O. Box 22512, Sacramento, CA 95822 (916) 879-6645 info@foglightpress.com.

NEW ARRIVALS AT THE OPEN BOOK

FICTION

A REDBIRD CHRISTMAS: A NOVEL, by Fannie Flagg. (Random House, 2004, 229 p., \$17.95, ISBN 1400063043). (Fiction - General)

BEST GAY EROTICA 2005, by Richard Labonte, Editor; Selected and Introduced by William J. Mann. (Cleis Press, 2005, 252 p., \$14.95, ISBN 1573442038). (Gay Erotica - Fiction & Nonfiction; Gay Erotic Fiction)

SHARED WINDS, by Kenna White. (Bella Books, 2004, 216 p., \$12.95, ISBN 1594930066). (Lesbian Fiction)

SIERRA CITY, by Gerri Hill. (Bella Books, 2004, 275 p., \$12.95, ISBN 1931513988). (Lesbian Fiction)

THE UNKNOWN MILE, by Jaime Clevenger. (Bella Books, 2004, 253 p., \$12.95, ISBN 1931513570). (Lesbian Fiction)

WILD THINGS, by Karin Kallmaker. (Bella Books, 2004, 228 p., \$12.95, ISBN 1931513643). (Lesbian Fiction)

NONFICTION

EVERYWOMAN'S ALMANAC 2005: LIFE CHANGES...LIFE MOVEMENTS... LIFE RHYTHMS, by Women's Press. (Women's Press, 2004, [148 p.], illus., \$9.95, ISBN 0889614458). (Calendars)

FROM THE INSIDE OUT: RADICAL GENDER TRANSFORMATION, FTM AND BEYOND, by Morty Diamond, Editor. (Manic D-Press, 2004, 168 p., \$13.95, ISBN 0916397963). (Gender/Transgender Studies; Gender/Transgender Studies - Nonfiction)

FEMINISMS AND WOMANISMS: A WOMEN'S STUDIES READER, by Althea Prince, Susan Silva-Wayne, and Christian Vernon, Editors. (Women's Press, 2004, 549 p., \$39.95, ISBN 0889614113). (Gay & Lesbian Studies)

MOTHER OUTLAWS: THEORIES AND PRACTICES OF EMPOWERED MOTHERING, by Andrea O'Reilly, Editor. (Women's Press, 2004, 441 p., \$39.95, ISBN 0889614466). (Gay & Lesbian Studies)

THE WHOLE LESBIAN SEX BOOK: A PASSIONATE GUIDE FOR ALL OF US; 2ND EDITION, by Felice Newman. (Cleis Press, 2004, 376 p., illus., \$24.95, ISBN 1573441996). (Sex & Sexuality - Fiction & Nonfiction; Lesbian Sex)

PILGRIM PRAYERS FOR SINGLE FATHERS, by David Albert Farmer. (Pilgrim Press, 2004, 108 p., \$12.00, ISBN 0829815945). (Spirituality & Religion)

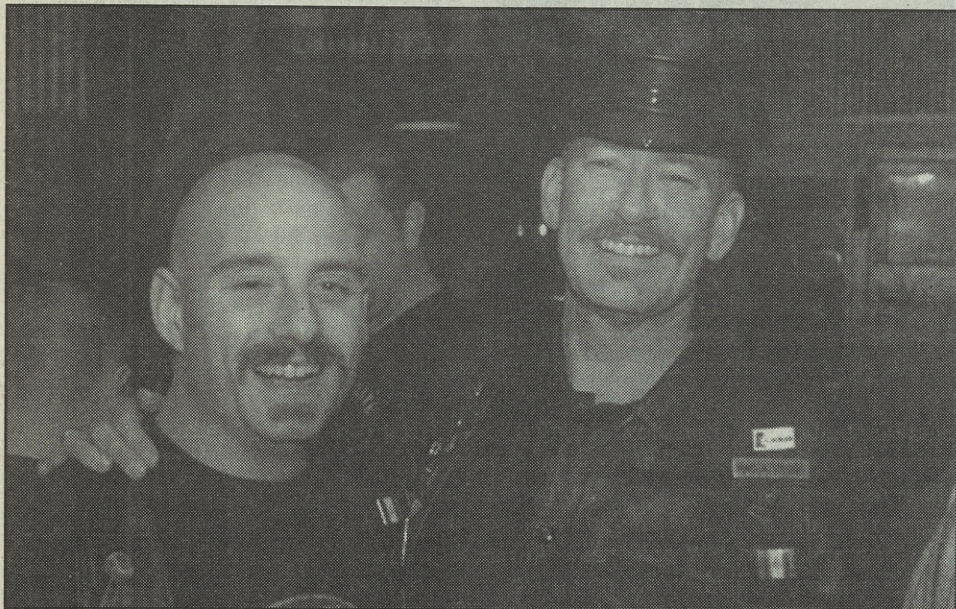
100 HIKES IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL SIERRA & COAST RANGE; 2ND EDITION, by Vicky Spring. (Mountaineers Books, 2004, 272 p., illus., \$16.95, ISBN 0898868963). (Travel - California)

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Leathermen celebrate seventh anniversary at the Bolt

Photos By Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg



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Sticks and Stones and Family Values

STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES, BUT WORDS WILL NEVER HURT ME." HOW I WISH THIS WAS THE CASE. IN OUR EVERY DAY INTERACTIONS WE KNOW THAT THAT COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

Jealousy, ignorance, psychosis etc., can all get out of control if they are directed at you. Perhaps it is better to deal with life with a fantastical child-like reassurance. Adults have to tell children something. Truth be told, words can often cause just much damage when used as weapons.

I witness this daily, such rhetoric from the Bush conservative's campaign of "Family Values" as if they invented the concept. Hear them rattle it off like any other celebrated slogan, like, Nike's "Just Do it." Or "Got Milk?" How about the Terminator's, "I'll Be Back." Man he wasn't joking... It is as if we are only capable of processing 2-3 words at a time. Well, as a former publicist, quick and to the point works best. The American ADHD ratio: approximately the same. Our attention span is between 2-5 seconds, so that seems to work. Just as contrived as this right wing pseudo concern for FV's, is its effectiveness, which is twofold: 1. Reassure the public that the right wing conservatives have our best interest at heart and 2. Remind everyone that we lesbian and gay families are the antithesis, the Antichrist, the flip side of family. As if they didn't know that Newt Gingrich was a serial adulterer, or the divorce rate in the fundamental religious righteous' Bible belt is higher than in the secular northeast as if these were family values personified. Are they just in denial or do they have a different definition than we do?

Through disinformation, obliteration of facts and unrelenting diatribes, the right wing conservatives threaten our families; deny us the opportunities of being included in that equation. Aren't we still Americans? Anything repeated enough times eventually leads one or in this case many to believe. A Lie told to many times often resurfaces as the truth, whether it happened or not. Truth is not absolute; it can be manipulated and infiltrated, and misunderstood. Ever play the game telephone as a child? You get my point. Truth is in the eye of the beholder. Defamation of character, libelous accusations and rumors distort and modify. Anais Nin said it best, "We see things not as they are, but as we are. Despite conservative indiscretions that are too many to mention, they condemn and exploit without hesitation or reservation quite often, it is shameful and effective.

Words carry an enormous leverage; it is how we communicate with others. It is how we convey our thoughts, advise and how we attempt to perpetuate or squash rumor and innuendo, or change lives, break through barriers, or fight for basic humanity through reform. Perpetuating and exacerbating ideologies takes effort, but we seem to be able to handle it. Words are the evolutionary indicator that we are on the top of the mammalian evolutionary chain. So advanced, we are the only ones cable of backstabbing, hindering progress through sabotaging other's efforts, instead of attempting to improve our own disposition. Shouldn't we use our powers for good and not evil? Yes.



Semantics is a double-edged sword.

It is a very critical communicative tool. Words. Words are the most obvious example of power. It is how we are governed, how rhetoric is transferred and perceived. Used against us through verbal manipulation and disapprovingly although extremely hypocritical lexicon and distorted and fabricated blasphemous in their efforts to indulge fantasy. We are at a loss, not for words but for equality because of the words others use against us, leaving us in a polarized position. Reiterating over and over and over, it is very effective.

THE SO CALLED PROPONENTS OF FAMILY VALUES BLAME LIBERALS FOR THE ILLS IN THE WORLD YET ARE SAVED FROM A SIMILAR REPRIMAND BECAUSE THE "DEVIL MADE THEM DO IT." THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO TURN THIS THEME INTO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR HETEROSEXUAL AND WHITE PRIVILEGE.

Reiterating in an emphatic, incessant chant they force their limited version of family values on the rest of us. The right wing Conservatives are well versed, albeit intolerant and presumptuous. The result is that they insinuate that they are fighting for the American family leaving an indelible imprint of "us" verses "them" in the mind of the American psyche. Whose family? Certainly not mine. Their homophobic propaganda shines through as they use words and slogans, catch phrases and an intolerant slant to deny us our rights as gays and lesbians. It is a hypnotic, arrogant assumption, that they're the guardians of family values (while they polarize income upward). As if we in the LGBT familial sphere should be denied access the democracy many of us have so valiantly fought for? Trust me Bush, we do appreciate and identify. The conservative slant hides under the guise of preserving family values, as if they could identify, in a constant and vociferous rhetorical division, which confuses most. The assert that they are 'right' and we by default would be 'wrong.' Bush opportunistic endorsements to ban gay marriages! How does this 'pre-

serve' the heterosexual family? The words they use as weapons of mass destruction carry an enormous amount of leverage, not in our favor.

Despite America's progressive liberal tradition of stimulating diversity, help maintain family stability through liberal policies, by reliving economic and social constraints of working families; conservatives continue to divide us, 'sampling' the efforts of the liberals. Such accomplishments were the advent of the 40-hour workweek, child labor laws, social security benefits and the Earned Income Credit. (Many of those pioneering liberal social reformers were lesbians!) Congressional conservatives are trying to restrict the EIC, abolish overtime paid to the working poor, while allowing such highly profitable corporations like General Electric retroactive tax breaks and they say their is no corporate welfare! Um, since when is the attempt to reintroduce slave labor an American family value?

They are wizards, spin doctors, and far too removed to pay close enough attention to the middle to low-income families that constitute 60% of American families. We need to stand up to them, and by doing so we are standing up for ourselves. We need to pull back the hateful curtain of propaganda and expose these hypocritical homophobic leaders of our country, no small tasks. If not, they will continue to go unchallenged and unscathed. These conservative wizards promote anything but family values.

THEY FEED OFF OUR COUNTRY'S IGNORANCE BY LAMENTING THEIR BIASED, ANTI-FAMILY, HOMOPHOBIC TIRADES AS LOUD AND AS LONG AS THEY POSSIBLY CAN. BY ASSURING AMERICANS THEY HAVE OUR FAMILY'S BEST INTEREST AT HEART! NO, I HAVE TO DISAGREE. THEY HAVE THEIR SPECIAL INTEREST AT THE FOREFRONT. THEY AREN'T 'RIGHT' JUST LOUDER AND IN MORE NUMBERS. THEY ARE NOT THE EXCLUSIVE AND RIGHTFUL HEIRS TO FAM-

ILY VALUES, JUST THOSE THAT ARE DOMINEERING AND OPPRESSIVE.

By insisting that our families are undermining and destroying the American family they hide behind homophobic sensationalism. To insist that our LGBT families have the resources, the power to destroy the American family... As if we an air borne pathogen. They feed into the ignorance that is truly a plague embedded in our country.

Empirical evidence has never been important, just their calculated attacks to divide and conquer. Position Americans into an 'us' verses 'them,' 'right' verses 'wrong,' what follows is fear and continued inequality that is justified as preservation of family! Proof is as irrelevant to the right wing as the truth. It is a magic show, one of illusionary smoke and cynical mirrors. Propaganda directed toward our families cannot remain unchallenged. We are the advocates of equality, humanity, family, civil liberties the true voice of 'the people.' Gay and lesbian families are proponents of progressive social reform. These are fundamental distinctions between 'us' and 'them.' I guess we are different after all.

Underneath their rhetorical semantic smoke screen, those on the political right pretend to be 'pro family,' fighting to maintain the integrity of what is best for American families through misleading exaggeration and outright lies. Without examination their prescribed labels for us, their hard hitting accusations heard time after time create room for credibility, thus becoming legitimized. Sneaky isn't it!

When we are defined by their parameters, right wing demagoguery continues to overshadow the truth. It is convincing, loud and repeated in unison, leaving Americans in a hypnotic glaze of ignorance and confusion. As it stands, the truth is not mandatory, it isn't even necessary. Complacency will get us nowhere. If we allow others to speak on our behalf, to interpret who we are and what we believe we will continue to be misrepresented and disenfranchised. Requiring tireless commitment our LGBT families are the ones that must take the initiative to bridge this ideological divide. Our families lack equality and legal protection as a result of their semantic deceptions, abusive verbiage and tacky cliché does dilute the truth. Upholding democracy certainly can't be left up to the right.

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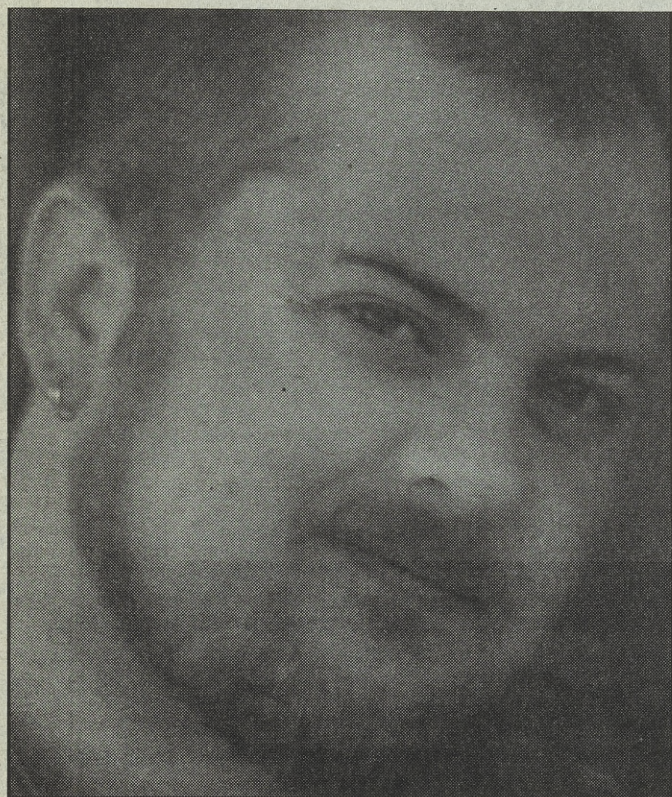
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**SACRAMENTO'S GLBT
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The truth as I know it...



By M.A. Ross/Q-Ragg

of the most vulnerable of situations with the rest of the team standing right next to them? It's just not going to happen. Another "gay vs. sports" stereotype that was brought to my attention was "sissyphobia" the fear of effeminate men. I heard a local radio host say once that he "didn't want some 'fruity guy' teaching his son how to play baseball." And I thought to myself, no 'fruity guy' is going to teach your son how to play baseball, puddin' head; it would probably be the father of one of your son's teammates

or some creepy child molester type. (Or possibly both! Yipes!) The closest his son would get to a 'fruity guy' would probably be some big burly muscle Mary; he wouldn't suspect was gay anyway. I find most effeminate men don't care too much for playing or watching sports anyhow. (Hence, we end up watching sports with our straight friends.)

I wonder why so many straight guys are afraid of an effeminate guy playing sports? Are they afraid that they would play like girls? Is it because sports is thought of typically being a masculine pursuit and any hints of femininity there in seem out of place and make straight men uncomfortable? Then what about cheerleaders? I guess a cheerleader, whose part in the team is supposedly team spirit, is really just for eye candy for fans, while the players set up the next play. Proof you say? When was the last time you heard an interview after a game where an athlete says "We almost gave up on the game today, but with the help of the cheerleaders we pulled this one back from the brink..." Try never... Never would you hear that!!

The homosexuals that 'pass' as straight may have an easier time getting into professional sports, but the constant pressure of having to keep up appearances is not an easy task. Having to relentlessly cover up one's private life and endure the slings and arrows of rampant even though possibly inadvertent homophobic remarks from teammates and sports fans alike. Living under the constant fear of losing one's job that many athletes have spent most of their adult lives trying to achieve. To be labeled damaged goods or black listed from teams simply because of whom they choose to love! The pressure of playing the game itself is heavy enough, but the extra-added weight of living a lie and carry those lies can take their toll. It's no wonder so many professional athletes don't come out in their prime. Queerly ancient Greeks athletes were more open about their sexuality than most of their modern day counterparts who have a tendency to reveal themselves after their careers are over. The one constant I read from professional athletes who come out after their careers are over is that no one wants to be the first openly gay athlete. The train of thought is this; the pressure of living under constant fear of being out-ed is more tolerable than the pressure of being the first openly gay athlete. Not only to suffer the possible harassment from teammates and sports fans, but also living under the watchful eye of the media as the first openly gay athlete. The extra added anxiety to do well as 'the first.' To be systematically deconstructed & compared to other players and not for RBI's or how many career passes, but for no other reason than who your sleeping with, all in print, on television and the Internet for their entire career. The scrutiny would surely encumber not only the player's performance, possibly the entire team's performance. Not to mention the media buzz around the other teammates as they answer questions about what it's like to have 'the first openly gay athlete' on their team. Some may see this as good pub-

licity, but do you think you could handle the stress? I say if you can hang... more power to ya...

I myself am not of the athletic persuasion. (Unless beer curls & bong reps count?) But I do like to watch. (Woof!) Observing the rivalry between two opposing sport teams and the emotional ups and downs that can happen, create a kind of instant and unpredictable drama that anyone can easily get swept up in. As an example my hus'bear' (John) is usually a rather quiet and reserved kind of guy, until you set him in front of a San Francisco 49'er game. Then he's either fidgeting on the couch with each decisive game play or he's yelling "GO-BABY-GO" at the receiver running down field with the ball. Our friends act all but similar during a heated game. When a receiver loses the ball, you can hear the collective groan that comes from everyone in the room at the same time. A type of unspoken male bonding that rarely happens anywhere else. It shows a real sense of camaraderie and understanding through actions. I was never really a big American football fan, so I don't suss what all the fuss is for, but I can understand why some people are that ardent about games. (I'm more of a baseball/volleyball/basketball fan.) Just like beauty, the watching of sports, is in the eye of the beholder. Some people watch organized sport purely for the joy of sport. I watch because the athletes are attractive and/or the joy of sport. I don't mean to sound salacious, but professional athletes spend most of their time getting their bodies into shape to play sports. The fact that I'm attracted to healthy athletic specimens of the male physic is a plus I get to enjoy while watching sports. There's nothing quite akin to have a look at a basketball players 'guns' (that's slang for arms, yo!) during a game or seeing a volleyball team of guys who are young, hung and full of ... spirit. And there is nothing quite like sitting in a chair with and ice cold beer, an end table of snacks and watching a baseball game just to checking out which player has the hottest ass. (Woof! X 2) Oh yeah, the game is fun too...

THE TRUTH AS I KNOW IT.
MROSS@Q-RAGG.COM

ONE OF THE MANY THINGS MY HUS'BEAR' AND I LIKE TO DO WITH OUR FRIENDS (MOSTLY OUR STRAIGHT FRIENDS... MORE ON THIS LATER) IS WATCH SPORTING EVENTS. ALTHOUGH SOME STEREOTYPICALLY STRAIGHTS (...AND YES EVEN A FEW GAYS!) WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE SPORTS AND HOMOSEXUALS DON'T MIX.

I'm here to tell you that they do mix and have mixed since the beginning of organized sports. From as far back as ancient Greece to the modern day, homosexuals have participated in or watched all kinds sports. One's sexual orientation has nothing what so ever to do with the enjoyment and participation in sports. That is unless, fear and pretexts of others keeps them from it. The two most common excuses I hear for exclusion of homosexuals from sports are: disruptive to team cohesion and not wanting to shower with 'the gays.' So tell me, what's more disruptive to team cohesion, an athlete's private sex life or the big stink the rest of his team make of it? As for the not wanting to shower with 'the gays,' to anyone who's showered in a locker room situation, be it high school, gym, or club, I say surprise: you've already showered with a homosexual and may not have even realize it. Besides, what athlete is going to come on to a teammate in one

2004-2005 KINGS LINE-UP

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV NETWORK	DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	TV NETWORK
Tue.	Nov. 2	@Dallas	5:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Fri.	Jan. 28	@Houston	6:30 p.m.	News10
Wed.	Nov. 3	@San Antonio	5:30 p.m.	News10	Sun.	Jan. 30	@Minnesota	12:30 p.m.	News10
Sat.	Nov. 6	@Houston	5:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Feb. 1	Seattle	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Nov. 9	Toronto	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Wed.	Feb. 2	@Golden State	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Wed.	Nov. 10	@Seattle	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Fri.	Feb. 4	New York	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sat.	Nov. 13	@Phoenix	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sat.	Feb. 5	@Portland	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sun.	Nov. 14	Denver	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Feb. 8	Phoenix	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Nov. 16	Chicago	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Thu.	Feb. 10	@Seattle	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Fri.	Nov. 19	Memphis	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Fri.	Feb. 11	Dallas	7:30 p.m.	News10
Sun.	Nov. 21	Milwaukee	6:00 p.m.	News10	Sun.	Feb. 13	@Boston	3:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Nov. 23	Houston	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Feb. 15	@Chicago	5:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Fri.	Nov. 26	@L.A. Lakers	7:30 p.m.	News10	Wed.	Feb. 16	@New Jersey	4:30 p.m.	News10
Sun.	Nov. 28	Minnesota	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Feb. 22	Atlanta	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Nov. 30	@Memphis	5:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Thu.	Feb. 24	@Dallas	6:30 p.m.	TNT
Wed.	Dec. 1	@New Orleans	5:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sat.	Feb. 26	@Philadelphia	4:30 p.m.	News10
Fri.	Dec. 3	Indiana	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sun.	Feb. 27	@Washington	3:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sun.	Dec. 5	Boston	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Mar. 1	@Charlotte	4:00 p.m.	News10
Tue.	Dec. 7	Charlotte	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Wed.	Mar. 2	@Orlando	4:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Fri.	Dec. 10	@Minnesota	5:00 p.m.	News10	Fri.	Mar. 4	@Miami	5:00 p.m.	News10
Sat.	Dec. 11	@Indiana	5:00 p.m.	News10	Sun.	Mar. 6	Detroit	12:30 p.m.	News10
Tue.	Dec. 14	@Milwaukee	5:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Mar. 8	Memphis	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Thu.	Dec. 16	L.A. Lakers	7:30 p.m.	TNT	Fri.	Mar. 11	L.A. Clippers	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sun.	Dec. 19	New Orleans	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sun.	Mar. 13	Houston	12:30 p.m.	News10
Tue.	Dec. 21	Washington	7:00 p.m.	News10	Tue.	Mar. 15	Orlando	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Thu.	Dec. 23	Miami	7:30 p.m.	TNT	Thu.	Mar. 17	@Golden State	7:30 p.m.	TNT
Sun.	Dec. 26	Golden State	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sat.	Mar. 19	@L.A. Clippers	7:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Fri.	Dec. 31	@Utah	5:00 p.m.	News10	Sun.	Mar. 20	Golden State	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sun.	Jan. 2	San Antonio	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Tue.	Mar. 22	Portland	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Jan. 4	@New York	4:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Thu.	Mar. 24	Dallas	7:00 p.m.	News10
Wed.	Jan. 5	@Toronto	4:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sat.	Mar. 26	@Denver	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Fri.	Jan. 7	@Atlanta	4:30 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Mon.	Mar. 28	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Sat.	Jan. 8	@New Orleans	5:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Wed.	Mar. 30	@Detroit	4:30 p.m.	News10
Tue.	Jan. 11	Denver	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Fri.	Apr. 1	@Cleveland	5:00 p.m.	News10
Thu.	Jan. 13	Utah	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sun.	Apr. 3	Minnesota	12:30 p.m.	News10
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Tue.	Jan. 18	Portland	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sun.	Apr. 10	L.A. Lakers	12:30 p.m.	News10
Thu.	Jan. 20	Cleveland	7:30 p.m.	TNT	Fri.	Apr. 15	@L.A. Lakers	7:30 p.m.	News10
Sun.	Jan. 23	San Antonio	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Sat.	Apr. 16	@Phoenix	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Tue.	Jan. 25	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet	Mon.	Apr. 18	@Utah	6:00 p.m.	Comcast SportsNet
Thu.	Jan. 27	@San Antonio	6:30 p.m.	TNT	Wed.	Apr. 20	Phoenix	7:30 p.m.	News10

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB SACRAMENTO

Don't let a failed president
write our civil rights out of
the constitution!!

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www.sacstonewall.org



Dear Mother, My sister is getting married. She wants me to be her maid-of-honor. I have never gone to any of the weddings that I have been invited to, instead I send a note thanking them and wishing them well, but letting them know that until gays and lesbians are allowed to legally marry, that I will not attend one. My sister is now not speaking to me. I love her and am happy for her, but want her to understand my view. Any advice for me on how to get through to her? Signed, No Ring on This Finger

Honey, I completely understand your view on this subject and while I agree with you that gays and lesbians should be allowed to be legally bound to each other. Planning a wedding is terribly stressful, your sister might need you for support. So you might make an exception for your sister after all she alone cannot change the way things are. Then back to the fight, with Adolph Bush in the White House we will all need to be vigilant in our fight for our equal rights. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, My best friend and I have known each other for about 10 years. Last week after a drunken night at the Merc, he kissed me. And it wasn't a friend kiss, it was a tongue down my throat kiss. When I brought it up the next day, he laughed it off. But I now recall that whenever he is drunk he is much more touchy, puts his arm around me, makes sexual jokes that he never does when he is sober. Do you think he could be in love with me and if so, do you think he knows it? Signed, Designated Driver

All right Sweetie, first of all we all know that when men have been drinking they lose those inhibitions and become...well, let's just say "frisky". It sounds like there must be more than just some friendly attraction there. Try having an evening without alcohol and have some sit down serious discussion about it and your feelings. If there is nothing there at least you will know and if there is you can work it out as adults with the outcome depending on how you both feel. Good luck, Honey! *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I have been involved with a nonprofit agency for many years and have, through necessity become one of their key members. It is a volunteer position and I work a regular job as well. I am more than ready to leave this nonprofit, but do not want to without having people in place to take over my numerous roles. But getting out soon is the only thing that will save my sanity. Unfortunately, those who are involved in the group think my talk of leaving is not real as I have played that card

a few times, then come back to save them. Should I risk it and walk, or stick it out until I burn out completely? Signed, Nonprofit Junkie

Honey, Mother knows all about over extending herself. I think that you should give notice with a date attached, train someone to do your various jobs and make it clear you will not be returning due to "Other Obligations". You will have covered your bases and your conscience can rest at ease. Then if it fails you had done all you can do. No person is an island and you have to think about your own sanity, others always step up to fill those shoes left behind. You know, maybe you just have separation anxiety. *Love Mother*

Dear Mother, I have been renting a house from this old closeted lesbian for almost 4 years. Because I and intended on staying there for a long period of time I put time effort and money into the house to turn it from the dump it was to a warm comfortable place to live. Now after I have finally finished landscaping, painting, making repairs etc. the old hag has decided she is going to kick me out and move in herself. She then suggested I leave items of my furniture and things from the yard "like my spa and gazebo" behind for her. Now that I have been moving those items she has been coming into the house while I'm at work and stealing from me which I have on a 'Nanny cam'. I changed the locks and she threw a fit that she couldn't get into the house while I was gone. I am not sure how to approach this since she is a member of the community should I just let it go? Signed, Done wrong

Oh, no she didn't! It sounds like this woman might need some help from a good shrink. She has definitely stepped over the line many times from what you have said. I would file police reports and press charges. Has she returned your deposit? Don't cut her slack because she's family, old or even because she is mental. Sue her there is a great place for help in Sacramento it's called the carol miller Justice center they're number is 916/875-7846. I say fry her. *Love, Mother*

EMAIL MOM AT: TALKTOMOTHER@Q-RAGG.COM

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Q-RAGG NEWSPAPER

717 K Street, Ste. 519, Sacramento CA 95814
newsline 916.247.7244 faxline 916.442.4006

WHAT IS NEWS

Many of us are used to thinking that news is something "beyond ourselves"—Federal Marriage Amendments, San Francisco Parades, and the like. But news that interests a community is sometimes about...YOU. As members of the Sacramento GLBT community, we sometimes get so bogged down in the news of the world, we lose track of what's going on in our own community. Q-Ragg wants to not only keep our community up to speed on what's going on within our city limits, but celebrate who we are and what accomplishments we make along the way. Q-Ragg strives to be Sacramento's hometown GLBT newspaper, reporting on the lives of our community.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Some folks may think it's odd that Q-Ragg calls folks by their first names, uses a familiar voice for feature stories, and allows Q-Voice to present opinions that go against the gay status quo. Q-Ragg believes a community paper is a mirror of its hometown and that, in essence, we are all neighbors. We are one community with many voices, and however different those voices may be, we are all working, ultimately, for the same goal: a strong, cohesive community treated with equality and respect. To achieve that, we've got to get familiar with one another, and what our community has to offer us.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING Q- SACRAMENTO'S GLBT Q-MUNITY VOICE!

WWW.Q-RAGG.COM

SEND US YOUR Q-MUNITY NEWS

SEND US NEWS (news@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to fill its pages with the Sacramento GLBT community and that means YOU. Keep our email and fax number handy, and when you come across something you think is interesting, send it to us. Stories such as the Lavender Library is now renting the new Queer As Folk, the Lambda Center got 20 new volunteers in one month, you just signed a book deal, you went to the capitol to protest and want to tell how it affected you, a new non-profit just opened its doors, the Valley Rainbow Pages just hit record sales, your fundraiser had excellent attendance. All these are things we may overlook as not newsworthy, but Q-Ragg believes these are the things that reflect our community and who we are, as much as stories about the FMA and SF Pride, perhaps even more so, as they are close to home and involve the people and places we see on a regular basis.

SEND US EVENTS (events@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to make certain your event is listed in our calendar. When submitting an event, please be certain to include the Who, What, When, Where and any details about the event we should know. Also, please include the name, phone number and email address of who to contact for follow-up information. Photos can be emailed to: photos@q-ragg.com (Preferred photo type: tif or jpeg image, 300 dpi. Hard copy images may be mailed to our office, or dropped off in person during business hours.)



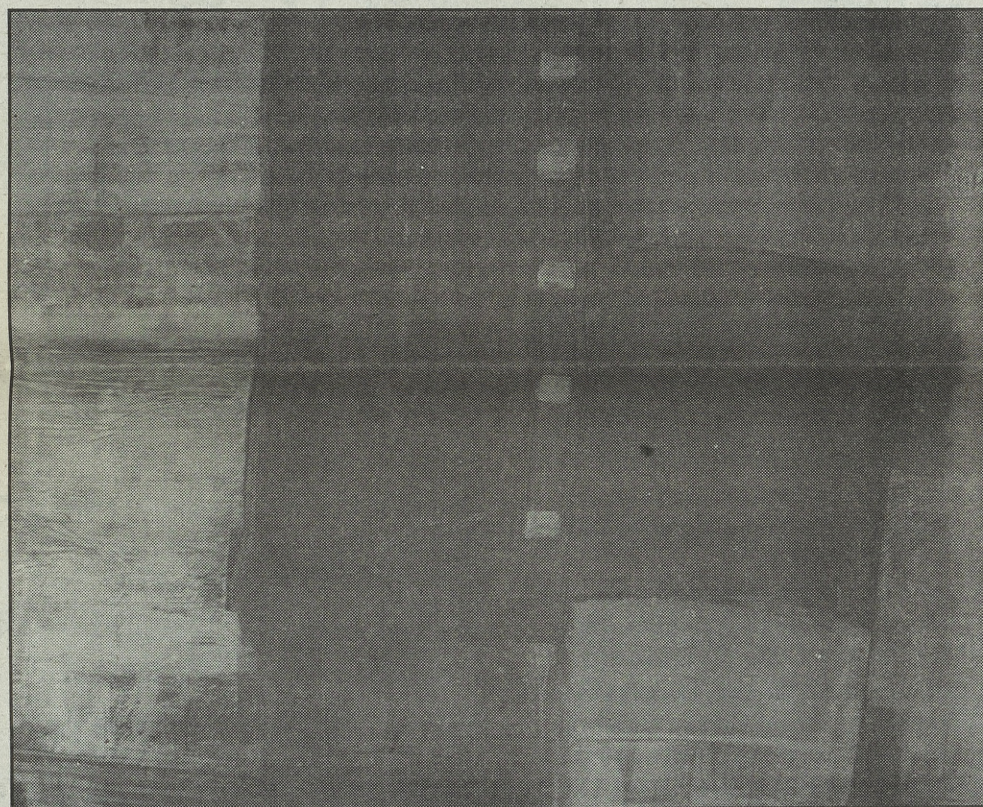
UPCOMING AT UPTOWN STUDIOS
912 1/2 J STREET
446-1082

FRIDAY Nov 12 - 5-8PM SNEAK PEEKS, COME FOR A PREVIEW
OF THE AWESOME HIP AND URBAN ART SHOW. HORS D'OEUVRES

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13TH 2ND SATURDAY ART WALK.
6PM - 10 PM ART, ARTIST, DRINKS AND FOOD... PERFECTION!
FEATURING THE WILD AND AWESOME ART OF "EL DREKO" PATRICK
ARDELL, OUR LOCAL ARTIST EXTRORDINAIRE-NEW AND WONDERFUL.

ALSO SHOWING THIS MONTH IS HARRY GRUENERT- BRIGHT COLOR-
FUL ABSTRACTS THAT JUST CAPTURE YOU. GRUENERT HAS A FEEL FOR
COLOR AND TEXTURE THAT MAKE HIS WORKS COLLECTIBLE.

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WOODEN SQUARE AND A JAR OF BRIGHT RED PAINT... SEE WHAT
THEY EACH CAME UP WITH FOR THIS SPECIAL PRESENTATION. \$200
EACH.



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Art is knowing which ones to keep. —Scott Adams**

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Q-EVENTS

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November**7 SUNDAY**

Pancake Breakfast, Sac. Valley Leathermen, Community Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, FACES 20th And K Sts, \$6 All You Can Eat, SVLclub.org

9 TUESDAY

Q-Munity Member Birthday: Clint Vigen

10 WEDNESDAY

Master LGBT Annual Events Calendar Planning, 6-8pm, Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St, RSVP 446-1082 Or tina@uptownstudios.net

11 THURSDAY

Veterans Day Social, Sacramento Valley Veterans, Sacramento's Gay And Lesbian Veterans Group To Observe Veterans Day At A Meet And Greet Social To Be Held, At 7:30pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 452.4400 Sacvalleyveterans.com

13 SATURDAY

SECOND SATURDAY GALLERY WATCH LLACE, 6pm, 1414 21st St, 492-0558, Lavenderlibrary.org
Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St, 446-1082

2nd Saturday Potluck, Sac Gender Assoc., 6:30pm-9pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St, 364-7212

Board Candidate Meet And Greet, Sac Valley Leathermen, 7pm-9pm, The Merc, 20th & L Sts, SVLclub.org

5th Annual GAYla Ball, Benefits Save Ourselves, Breast Cancer Survivors, 6pm-Midnight, Formal Attire, Masonic Temple, 1123 J St, Res. 410-1327
Potluck In Yuba, 21& Over Only, 6pm, RSVP (530) 674-5382

14 SUNDAY

Breaking Barriers Harvest Hoedown, Funds Will Support Client Services, \$39, 447-2437.

16 TUESDAY

Board Elections, Sac Valley Leatherman, 7pm-9pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St, SVLclub.org

18 THURSDAY

MCC Transgender Support Group, 6:30pm -9pm, Sacramento MCC Cathedral Of Promise, 10500 Chaplain Ave, Mather AFB, 916.364.4325

December**1 WEDNESDAY****WORLD AIDS DAY**

17th Annual World AIDS Day, 6pm-8:30pm, Pioneer United Church Free admittance, 6-6:30 candlelight March Starting from CARES, 1500 21st St. to Pioneer church, 2700 L St., for info: 914-6333

5 SUNDAY

Pancake Breakfast, Sac. Valley Leathermen, Community Fundraiser,

10am-1pm, FACES 20th And K Sts, \$6 All You Can Eat, SVLclub.org

11 SATURDAY

SECOND SATURDAY GALLERY WATCH LLACE, 6pm, 1414 21st St, 492-0558, Lavenderlibrary.org
Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St, 446-1082

2nd Saturday Potluck, Sac Gender Assoc., 6:30pm-9pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St, 364-7212

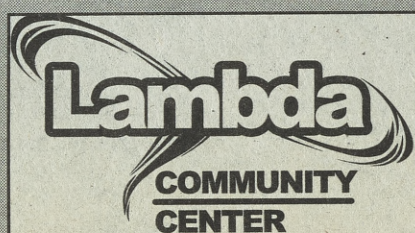
16 THURSDAY

MCC Transgender Support Group, 6:30pm -9pm, Sacramento MCC Cathedral Of Promise, 10500 Chaplain Ave, Mather AFB, 916.364.4325

17 FRIDAY

Murder Mystery Wine Train, Benefiting Breast Cancer/Focus Foundation, Stonewall Democrats & CGNIE, Hosted By Marghe Covino, Gayiel Von, Johnathan Cameron And Mike Johnston. FACES.net or CGNIE.com, Reserve By Nov. 16, \$375, Info: 448-7798.

events@q-ragg.com.



LAMBDA COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

Sunday

WOMEN'S COMING OUT GROUP 6PM-7:30PM

Open to women of all ages, at any stage of coming out.

WomenComingOut@lambdasac.org

Monday

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6PM

Open to men of all ages investigating "coming out" issues.

mencomingout@lambdasac.org

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6:30PM

Explore gay-related issues in a supportive, non-judgmental environment.

mensgroup@lambdasac.org

OVER THE RAINBOW GROUP OF NA, 8PM

A 12-step program for men and women trying to overcome a narcotics addiction. www.na.org

LAMBDA LAW REFERRAL SERVICE, 5:30PM

Wednesday

WOMYN ON WEDNESDAY, 7PM

For socialization and to discuss issues that Lesbian and bisexual women may find very important.

womensgroup@lambdasac.org

FIRST STAGES, 1ST & 3RD WEDS., 8-9PM

Support/discussion group for youth 18-29 who are recently diagnosed with HIV.

firststages@lambdasac.org

Friday

BREAKING BARRIERS/LAMBDA YOUTH GROUP, 8PM

Fun, educational, and thought provoking discussions that tackle topics facing queer youth today

youthgroup@lambdasac.org

Sacramento Theatre**FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

Runaway Stage Productions presents the 40th anniversary production, which opens 7 p.m. Thursday, and continues 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Nov. 18, and 21, through Nov. 28. 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th Street. \$16 general, \$14 seniors, students; \$10 children. (916) 207-1226.

****Q-RAGG BEST BET******RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET**

The City Theatre at Sacramento City College presentation. It opens 8 p.m. Friday, and continues 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 4, 9 and 11, through Dec. 12. Art Court Theatre, 3835 Freeport Blvd. \$12 general, \$10 seniors, students with ID, SARTA members, and persons with disabilities, \$7 matinees. Children younger than 6 will not be admitted. (916) 558-2228.

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday, the River City Theatre Company's production opens at 7:30 p.m. Friday, and continues 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, through Nov. 20. Special field trip performances for schools, groups, and seniors are available for booking Nov. 18, 19 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (\$5). Bert Chappell Theatre, Hiram Johnson High School, 6879 14th Ave. \$8-\$10. (916) 457-7282.

A GARBEAU'S CHRISTMAS

Directed by John Lee and choreographed by Nicole Koch with musical direction by Mark Ferreira. It opens 8 p.m. Saturday, and continues 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (dinner seating at 6 p.m.); 2:30 p.m. Sundays (brunch seating at 1 p.m.), through Dec. 23. Garbeau's Dinner Theatre, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. \$34-\$39 dinner and show, adults; \$21-\$26 dinner

and show, ages 12 and younger; \$20 show only, adults, \$8 show only students. (916) 985-6361.

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

B Street Theatre reprises artistic director Buck Busfield's warm-hearted comedy about bumbling burglars on Christmas Eve. It opens 2 p.m. next Sunday, and continues 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays; 5 and 9 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, and 22, 7 p.m. Jan. 2 (no performances on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day). B Street Theatre, 27th and B streets. (916) 443-5300.

THE AMERICAN CLOCK: A VAUDEVILLE

Arthur Miller's play about the Great Depression is directed by Frank Condon and presented by River Stage. Continuing performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and 2 p.m. today and next Sunday (last show). The Performing Arts Center, Cosumnes River College, 8401 Center Parkway. \$15 Friday and Saturday, \$13 Thursday and Sunday, discounts for seniors, students, SARTA and faculty members. (916) 691-7364.

BACKWATER PARK

The Actor's Theatre of Sacramento presents Laurie Blazich's first play. It continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 5. 1616 Del Paso Blvd. \$10-\$14. (916) 925-6579.



FORBIDDEN PLANET

Q-EVENTS

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www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org
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www.capcityaidsfund.org

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Lambda Players, 484-4742
www.lambdaplayers.com
Open Book, Ltd.
www.openbookltd.com
Uptown Studios, 446-1082
912 1/2 J St., www.uptownstudiosgallery.com

BARS/NIGHTCLUBS

The Bolt, 649-8420
2560 Boxwood, www.theboltbar.com
Club 21, 443-1537
1119 21st St, www.club21sacramento.com
FACES Nightclub, 448-7798
20th & K, www.faces.net

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Rainbow Chamber Commerce, 532-3347
www.rainbowchamber.com
Valley Rainbow Pages, 444-2322
www.valleyrainbowpages.com

FAMILY SUPPORT

Sacramento PFLAG, 978-0410
www.sacramentopflag.com

MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sac. Valley Leathermen, 486-5500
www.svlclub.org
Sacramento Valley Bears
www.sacvalleybears.org

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Meyer Enterprises, 524-5140

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www.doanevent.com

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*First 30 words are \$10 with each additional word .25 cents. There will be a \$25.00 fee for all returned checks. Run your ad in five (5) consecutive issues and the 6th issue is free.

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SEND RESPONSES TO PERSONALS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:
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PERSONALS—MEN

GWM—40 yrs old, 6'4" Brn, Hzl 350 furry, full beard. Loving big guy with big heart. Stable and comfortable with his sexuality and being a man. Seeking someone near my age who is smaller in height and body size, prefer a guy with some body hair, who is masculine but can be romantic as well. Please enclose a picture. Code: CASAC01

GBM—Happy, Healthy HIV+, non-smoker, social drinker, 32 yrs old, 6'1", sculpted body but down to earth. Looking for average to fit GHM or GWM into dancing, movies and romance. Send a reply, prefer with picture. Code CASAC02

GWM—Good looking bear, 49, 6', 290 lbs, Salt and Pepper hair w/white beard and mustache. Versatile bottom, can be kinky. Seeks top bear or chaser. Likes are cooking, gardening, camping, entertaining friends and reading. Like quiet times at home watching videos in front of a fire. Code CASAC03

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- No Loan Origination Fee
- Reduced fee on final closing costs by using the coupon below

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how many ways we've found to make home loans easier.

SAVE \$500 on Closing Costs

Compliments of Countrywide Home Loans and Jack Maple

Present this coupon to our Countrywide branch office in Roseville, CA, and save on closing costs. Coupon must accompany your loan application and a copy of your signed sales agreement. \$500 will be reflected as a closing cost credit. (Loan must close to receive this discount.)

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JACK MAPLE
Branch Sales Manager

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Fax: 888.599.5915

Web: home.countrywide.com/lockmole

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